

THE
AMERICAN MUSEUM,
OR
REPOSITORY
OF ANCIENT AND MODERN
FUGITIVE PIECES,
PROSE AND POETICAL.

For MAY, 1787.

*"With sweetest flow'rs enrich'd,
"From various gardens call'd with care."*

— VOLUME I —

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For MAY, 1787.

POLITICAL ECONOMY.

A Circular Letter from his Excellency General Washington, Commander in chief of the Armies of the United States of America, addressed to the Governors of the several States, on resigning his Command, and retiring from public Business.

*Head Quarters, Newburgh,
June 18, 1783.*

SIR,

THE great object, for which I had the honour to hold an appointment in the service of my country, being accomplished, I am now preparing to resign it into the hands of congress, and return to that domestic retirement, which, it is well known, I left with the greatest reluctance;

a retirement for which I have never ceased to sigh through a long and painful absence, and in which, (remote from the noise and trouble of the world) I meditate to pass the remainder of life, in a state of undisturbed repose: but, before I carry this resolution into effect, I think it a duty incumbent on me, to make this my last official communication, to congratulate you on the glorious events which heaven has been pleased to produce in our favour; to offer my sentiments respecting some important subjects, which appear to me to be intimately connected with the tranquility of the united states; to take my leave of your excellency as a public character; and to give my final blessing to that country, in whose service I have spent the prime of my life; for
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whose sake I have consumed so many anxious days and watchful nights ; and whose happiness, being extremely dear to me, will always constitute no inconsiderable part of my own.

Impressed with the liveliest sensibility on this pleasing occasion, I will claim the indulgence of dilating the more copiously on the subject of our mutual felicitation. When we consider the magnitude of the prize we contended for, the doubtful nature of the contest, and the favourable manner in which it has terminated—we shall find the greatest possible reason for gratitude and rejoicing: this is a theme that will afford infinite delight to every benevolent and liberal mind, whether the event in contemplation be considered as a source of present enjoyment, or the parent of future happiness; and we shall have equal occasion to felicitate ourselves on the lot which providence has assigned us, whether we view it in a natural, a political, or moral point of light.

The citizens of America, placed in the most enviable condition, as the sole lords and proprietors of a vast tract of continent, comprehending all the various soils and climates of the world, and abounding with all the necessities and conveniencies of life, are now, by the late satis-

factory pacification, acknowledged to be possessed of absolute freedom and independency. They are from this period to be considered as actors on a most conspicuous theatre, which seems to be peculiarly designed by providence for the display of human greatness and felicity. Here they are not only surrounded with every thing that can contribute to the completion of private and domestic enjoyment; but heaven has crowned all its other blessings by giving a surer opportunity for political happiness, than any other nation has ever been favoured with. Nothing can illustrate these observations more forcibly than a recollection of the happy conjuncture of times and circumstances, under which our republic assumed its rank among the nations. The foundation of our empire was not laid in a gloomy age of ignorance and superstition, but at an epocha when the rights of mankind were better understood, and more clearly defined, than at any former period. Researches of the human mind after social happiness have been carried to a great extent; the treasures of knowledge acquired by the labours of philosophers, sages, and legislators, through a long succession of years, are laid open for use, and their collected wisdom may be happily applied in the establishment of

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our forms of government. The free cultivation of letters, the unbounded extension of commerce, the progressive refinement of manners, the growing liberality of sentiment, and, above all, the pure and benignant light of revelation, have had a meliorating influence on mankind, and increased the blessings of society. At this auspicious period, the united states came into existence as a nation: and if their citizens should not be completely free and happy, the fault will be entirely their own.

Such is our situation, and such are our prospects: but notwithstanding the cup of blessing is thus reached out to us—notwithstanding happiness is ours, if we have a disposition to seize the occasion, and make it our own—yet it appears to me there is an option still left to the united states of America, whether they will be respectable and prosperous, or contemptible and miserable as a nation. This is the time of their political probation. This is the moment when the eyes of the whole world are turned upon them. This is the moment to establish or ruin their national character for ever. This is the favourable moment to give **SUCH A TONE TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**, as will enable it to answer the ends of its institution; or, this may be the

ill-fated moment for relaxing the powers of the union, annihilating the cement of the confederation, and exposing us to become the sport of European politics, which may play one state against another, to prevent their growing importance, and to serve their own interested purposes. For, according to the system of policy the states shall adopt at this moment, they will stand or fall; and, by their confirmation or lapse, it is yet to be decided, whether the revolution must ultimately be considered as a blessing or a curse; a blessing or a curse, not to the present age alone, for with our fate will the destiny of unborn millions be involved.

With this conviction of the importance of the present crisis, silence in me would be a crime. I will therefore speak to your excellency the language of freedom and sincerity, without disguise. I am aware, however, those who differ from me in political sentiments, may, perhaps, remark, I am stepping out of the proper line of my duty; and they may possibly ascribe to arrogance or ostentation, what I know is alone the result of the purest intention. But the rectitude of my own heart, which disdains such unworthy motives—the part I have hitherto acted in life—the determination I have formed of not taking any share in public business

business hereafter---the ardent desire I feel, and shall continue to manifest, of quietly enjoying, in private life, after all the toils of war, the benefits of a wise and liberal government, will, I flatter myself, sooner or later, convince my countrymen, that I could have no sinister views in delivering with so little reserve the opinions contained in this address.

There are four things which I humbly conceive are essential to the well-being, I may even venture to say, to the existence of the united states as an independent power.

First. AN INDISSOLUBLE UNION OF THE STATES UNDER ONE FEDERAL HEAD*.

Secondly. A sacred regard to public justice.

Thirdly. The adoption of a proper peace establishment.

And, fourthly, The prevalence of that pacific and friendly disposition among the people of the united states,

* May this important advice sink deep into the minds of the legislators of America, and induce them to take such necessary steps as may be likely to obviate the manifold distresses and misfortunes which have been so fatally and sensibly felt through neglect of a measure so indispensably requisite to the well-being of the union!

which will induce them to forget their local prejudices and policies, to make those mutual concessions which are requisite to the general prosperity, and, in some instances, to sacrifice their individual advantages to the interest of the community.

These are the pillars on which the glorious fabric of our independency and national character must be supported. Liberty is the basis---and whoever would dare to sap the foundation, or overturn the structure, under whatever specious pretext he may attempt it, will merit the bitterest execration, and the severest punishment, which can be inflicted by his injured country.

On the 3 first articles, I will make a few observations; leaving the last to the good sense and serious consideration of those immediately concerned.

Under the first head, altho' it may not be necessary or proper for me in this place to enter into a particular disquisition of the principles of the union, and to take up the great question which has been frequently agitated, whether it be expedient and requisite for the states to delegate a larger proportion of power to congress, or not; yet it will be a part of my duty, and that of every true patriot, to assert, without reserve, and to insist upon the following positions: That *unless the states will suffer congress to exercise those prerogatives*

tives they are undoubtedly invested with by the constitution, every thing must very rapidly tend to anarchy and confusion.

That it is indispensable to the happiness of the individual states, that there should be lodged, somewhere, a SUPREME POWER to regulate and govern the general concerns of the confederated republic, without which the union cannot be of long duration.

That there must be a faithful and pointed compliance on the part of every state with the late proposals and demands of congress, or the most fatal consequences will ensue—that whatever measures have a tendency to dissolve the union, or contribute to violate or lessen the sovereign authority, ought to be considered as hostile to the liberty and independency of America, and the authors of them treated accordingly—and lastly, that unless we can be enabled by the concurrence of the states to participate of the fruits of the revolution, and enjoy the essential benefits of civil society, under a form of government so free and uncorrupted, so happily guarded against the danger of oppression, as has been devised and adopted by the articles of confederation, it will be a subject of regret, that so much blood and treasure have been lavished for no purpose; that so many sufferings have been encountered without a compensation,

and that so many sacrifices have been made in vain. Many other considerations might here be adduced to prove, that without an entire conformity to the spirit of the union, we cannot exist as an independent power. It will be sufficient for my purpose to mention but one or two, which seem to me of the greatest importance. It is only in our united character, as an empire, that our independence is acknowledged, that our power can be regarded, or our credit supported among foreign nations. The treaties of the European powers, with the united states of America, will have no validity on a dissolution of the union. We shall be left nearly in a state of nature, or we may find by our own unhappy experience, that there is a natural and necessary progression from the extreme of anarchy to the extreme of tyranny; and that arbitrary power is most easily established on the ruins of liberty abused to licentiousness.

As to the second article, which respects the performance of public justice, congress have, in their late address to the united states, almost exhausted the subject. They have explained their ideas so fully, and have enforced the obligations the states are under to render complete justice to all the public creditors, with so much dignity and energy, that, in my opinion,

opinion, no real friend to the honour and independency of America, can hesitate a single moment respecting the propriety of complying with the just and honourable measures proposed. If their arguments do not produce conviction, I know of nothing that will have greater influence, especially when we recollect, that the system referred to, being the result of the collected wisdom of the continent, must be esteemed, if not perfect, certainly the least objectionable of any that could be devised; and that, if it shall not be carried into immediate execution, a national bankruptcy, with all its deplorable consequences, will take place before any different plan can possibly be proposed or adopted; so pressing are the present circumstances, and such is the alternative now offered to the states.

The ability of the country to discharge the debts which have been incurred in its defence, is not to be doubted: and inclination, I flatter myself, will not be wanting. The path of our duty is plain before us. Honesty will be found, on every experiment, to be the best and only true policy. Let us then, as a nation, be just. Let us fulfil the public contracts which congress had undoubtedly a right to make, for the purpose of carrying on the war, with the

same good faith we suppose ourselves bound to perform our private engagements. In the mean time, let an attention to the cheerful performance of their proper business, as individuals, and as members of society, be earnestly inculcated on the citizens of America. Then will they strengthen the hands of government, and be happy under its protection. Every one will reap the fruit of his labours. Every one will enjoy his own acquisitions, without molestation, and without danger.

In this state of absolute freedom and perfect security, who will grudge to yield a very little of his property to support the common interests of society, and insure the protection of government? Who does not remember the frequent declarations at the commencement of the war, That we should be completely satisfied, if, at the expence of one half, we could defend the remainder of our possessions? Where is the man to be found, who wishes to remain in debt for the defence of his own person and property, to the exertions, the bravery, and the blood of others, without one generous effort to repay the debt of honour and of gratitude? In what part of the continent shall we find any man, or body of men, who would not blush to stand up, and propose measures purposely calculated to rob

rob the soldier of his stipend, and the public creditor of his due? And were it possible that such a flagrant instance of injustice could ever happen, would it not excite the general indignation, and tend to bring down upon the authors of such measures the aggravated vengeance of heaven? If, after all, a spirit of disunion, or a temper of obstinacy and perverseness should manifest itself in any of the states---if such an ungracious disposition should attempt to frustrate all the happy effects that might be expected to flow from the union--if there should be a refusal to comply with requisitions for funds to discharge the annual interest of the public debts--and if that refusal should revive all those jealousies, and produce all those evils which are now happily removed, congress, who have in all their transactions shewn a great degree of magnanimity and justice, will stand justified in the sight of God and man! And that state alone, which puts itself in opposition to the aggregate wisdom of the continent, and follows such mistaken and pernicious counsels, will be responsible for all the consequences.

For my own part, conscious of having acted, while a servant of the public, in the manner I conceived suited to promote the real interests of

my country; having, in consequence of my fixed belief, in some measure, pledged myself to the army, that their country would finally do them complete and ample justice, and not wishing to conceal any instance of my official conduct from the eyes of the world, I have thought proper to transmit to your excellency the inclosed collection of papers, relative to the half-pay and commutation granted by congress to the officers of the army. From these communications, my decided sentiment may be comprehended, together with the conclusive reasons which induced me, at an early period, to recommend the adoption of this measure, in the most earnest and serious manner. As the proceedings of congress, the army, and myself, are open to all, and contain, in my opinion, sufficient information to remove the prejudices and errors which may have been entertained by any, I think it unnecessary to say any thing more, than just to observe, that the resolutions of congress, now alluded to, are as undoubtedly and absolutely binding upon the united states, as the most solemn acts of confederation or legislation.

As to the idea, which, I am informed, has, in some instances, prevailed, that the half-pay and commutation are to be regarded merely in the odious light of a pension, it

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ought to be exploded for ever. That provision should be viewed, as it really was, a reasonable compensation offered by congress, at a time when they had nothing else to give to the officers of the army, for services then to be performed. It was the only means to prevent a total dereliction of the service. It was a part of their hire. I may be allowed to say, it was the price of their blood, and of your independency. It is therefore more than a common debt. It is a debt of honour. It can never be considered as a pension, or gratuity; nor cancelled until it is fairly discharged.

With regard to the distinction between officers and soldiers, it is sufficient that the uniform experience of every nation of the world, combined with our own, proves the utility and propriety of the discrimination. Rewards, in proportion to the aids the public draws from them, are unquestionably due to all its servants. In some lines, the soldiers have perhaps generally had as ample compensation for their services, by the large bounties which have been paid them, as their officers will receive in the proposed commutation: in others, if, besides the donation of land, the payment of arrearages of clothing and wages (in which articles all the component parts of the army must be put on the same foot-

ing), we take into the estimate the bounties many of the soldiers have received, and the gratuity of one year's full pay, which is promised to all, possibly their situation (every circumstance being duly considered) will not be deemed less eligible than that of the officers. Should a further reward, however, be judged equitable, I will venture to assert, no man will enjoy greater satisfaction than myself, if an exemption from taxes for a limited time, (which has been petitioned for in some instances), or any other adequate immunity or compensation be granted to the brave defenders of their country's cause. But neither the adoption or rejection of this proposition, will, in any manner, affect, much less militate against, the act of congress, by which they have offered five years' full pay, in lieu of the half-pay for life, which had been before promised to the officers of the army.

Before I conclude the subject of public justice, I cannot omit to mention the obligations this country is under to that meritorious class of veterans, the non-commissioned officers and privates, who have been discharged for inability, in consequence of the resolution of congress, of the 23d of April, 1782, on an annual pension for life. Their peculiar sufferings, their singular merits

merits, and claims to that provision, need only to be known, to interest the feelings of humanity in their behalf. Nothing but a punctual payment of their allowance, can rescue them from the most complicated misery: and nothing could be a more melancholy and distressing sight, than to behold those who have shed their blood, or lost their limbs, in the service of their country, without a shelter, without a friend, and without the means of obtaining any of the comforts or necessities of life, compelled to beg their daily bread from door to door. Suffer me to recommend those of this description, belonging to your state, to the warmest patronage of your excellency and your legislature.

It is necessary to say but a few words on the third topic which was proposed, and which regards particularly the defence of the republic—as there can be little doubt but congress will recommend a proper peace establishment for the united states, in which a due attention will be paid to the importance of placing the militia of the union, upon a regular and respectable footing; if this should be the case, I should beg leave to urge the great advantage of it in the strongest terms.

The militia of this country must be considered as the palladium of our security, and the

first effectual resort in case of hostility. It is essential, therefore, that the same system should pervade the whole; that the formation and discipline of the militia of the continent, should be absolutely uniform; and that the same species of arms, accoutrements, and military apparatus, should be introduced in every part of the united states. No one, who has not learned it from experience, can conceive the difficulty, expence, and confusion, which result from a contrary system, or the vague arrangements which have hitherto prevailed.

If, in treating of political points, a greater latitude than usual, has been taken in the course of this address, the importance of the crisis, and the magnitude of the objects in discussion, must be my apology. It is, however, neither my wish nor expectation, that the preceding observations should claim any regard, except so far as they shall appear to be dictated by a good intention, consonant to the immutable rules of justice, calculated to produce a liberal system of policy, and founded on whatever experience may have been acquired by a long and close attention to public business. Here I might speak with more confidence, from my actual observation: and, if it would not swell this letter (already too prolix) beyond the bounds I had prescribed myself, I could demonstrate

demonstrate to every mind, open to conviction, that in less time, and with much less expence than has been incurred, the war might have been brought to the same happy conclusion, if the resources of the continent could have been properly called forth; that the distresses and disappointments which have very often occurred, have, in too many instances, resulted more from a **WANT OF ENERGY IN THE CONTINENTAL GOVERNMENT**, than from a deficiency of means in the particular states; that the inefficacy of measures, arising from the want of an adequate authority in the supreme power, from a partial compliance with the requisitions of congress, in some of the states, and from a failure of punctuality in others, while they tended to damp the zeal of those who were more willing to exert themselves, served also to accumulate the expences of the war, and to frustrate the best concerted plans; and that the discouragement occasioned by the complicated difficulties and embarrassments, in which our affairs were by this means involved, would have long ago produced the dissolution of any army, less patient, less virtuous, and less persevering, than that which I have had the honour to command. But while I mention those things, which are

notorious facts, as the defects of our federal constitution, particularly in the prosecution of a war, I beg it may be understood, that as I have ever taken a pleasure in gratefully acknowledging the assistance and support I have derived from every class of citizens, so shall I always be happy to do justice to the unparalleled exertions of the individual states, on many interesting occasions.

I have thus freely disclosed what I wished to make known, before I surrendered up my public trust, to those who committed it to me. The task is now accomplished. I now bid adieu to your excellency, as the chief magistrate of your state; at the same time, I bid a last farewell to the cares of office, and all the employments of public life.

It remains, then, to be my final and only request, that your excellency will communicate these sentiments to your legislature, at their next meeting; and that they may be considered as the legacy of one, who has ardently wished, on all occasions, to be useful to his country, and who, even in the shade of retirement, will not fail to implore the divine benediction upon it.

I now make it my earnest prayer that God would have you, and the state over which you preside, in his holy protection;

rection; that he would incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another, for their fellow-citizens of the united states at large, and particularly for their brethren who have served in the field; and finally, that he would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind, which were the characteristics of the divine author of our blessed religion, without an humble imitation of whose example, in these things, we can never hope to be a happy nation.

I have the honour to be, with much esteem and respect,

S I R, Your excellency's
most obedient,
and most humble servant,
G. WASHINGTON.



Circular Letter transmitted by the United States in Congress assembled, to the Governors of the respective States :

S I R,
OUR secretary for foreign affairs, has transmitted to you copies of a letter to him from our minister at the court of London, of the 4th

day of March, 1786, and of the papers mentioned to have been enclosed in it.

We have deliberately and dispassionately examined and considered the several facts and matters urged by Britain as infractions of the treaty of peace on the part of America: and we regret, that in some of the states, too little attention appears to have been paid to the public faith pledged by that treaty.

Not only the obvious dictates of religion, morality, and national honour, but also the first principles of good policy, demand a candid and punctual compliance with engagements constitutionally and fairly made.

Our national constitution having committed to us the management of the national concerns with foreign states and powers, it is our duty to take care that all the rights which they ought to enjoy, within our jurisdiction, by the laws of nations, and the faith of treaties, remain inviolate. And it is also our duty to provide that the essential interests and peace of the whole confederacy be not impaired or endangered by deviations from the line of public faith, into which any of its members may, from whatever cause, be unduly drawn.

Let it be remembered that the thirteen independent sovereign states have, by express

Circular Letter from Congress.

press delegation of power, formed and vested in us a general though limited sovereignty, for the general and national purposes specified in the confederation. In this sovereignty they cannot severally participate (except by their delegates) nor with it have concurrent jurisdiction : for the ninth article of the confederation most expressly conveys to us the sole and *exclusive* right and power of determining on war and peace, and of entering into *treaties* and alliances, &c.

When therefore a treaty is constitutionally made, ratified, and published by us, it immediately becomes binding on the whole nation, and superadded to the laws of the land, without the intervention or fiat of state legislatures. Treaties derive their obligation from being compacts between the sovereign of this, and the sovereign of another nation ; whereas laws or statutes derive their force from being acts of a legislature competent to the passing of them.

Hence it is clear, that treaties must be implicitly received and observed by every member of the nation ; for as state legislatures are not competent to the making of such compacts or treaties, so neither are they competent in that capacity, authoritatively to decide on, or ascertain the construction and sense of them. When

doubts arise respecting the construction of state laws, it is not unusual nor improper for the state legislatures by explanatory or declaratory acts, to remove those doubts : but the case between laws and compacts or treaties, is in this widely different : for, when doubts arise respecting the sense and meaning of a treaty, they are so far from being cognizable by a state legislature, that the united states in congress assembled have no authority to settle and determine them. For as the legislature only, which constitutionally passes a law, has power to revise and amend it ; so the sovereigns only, who are parties to the treaty, have power by mutual consent and posterior articles, to correct or explain it.

In cases between individuals, all doubts respecting the meaning of a treaty, like all doubts respecting the meaning of a law, are, in the first instance, mere judicial questions ; and are to be heard and decided in the courts of justice having cognizance of the causes in which they arise, and whose duty it is to determine them according to the rules and maxims established by the laws of nations for the interpretation of treaties. From these principles, it follows, of necessary consequence, that no individual state has a right, by legislative acts, to decide and point out

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the sense in which their particular citizens and courts shall understand this or that article of a treaty.

It is evident that a contrary doctrine would not only militate against the common and established maxims and ideas relative to this subject, but would prove no less ludicrous in practice than it is irrational in theory: for, in that case, the same article of the same treaty might by law be made to mean one thing in New Hampshire, another thing in New York, and neither the one nor the other of them in Georgia.

How far such legislative acts would be valid and obligatory, even within the limits of the state passing them, is a question which we hope never to have occasion to discuss. Certain, however, it is, that such acts cannot bind either of the contracting sovereigns, and consequently cannot be obligatory on their respective nations.

But if treaties, and every article in them, be (as they are, and ought to be) binding on the whole nation—if individual states have no right to accept some articles, and reject others—and if the impropriety of state-acts to interpret and decide the sense and construction of them be apparent—still more manifest must be the impropriety of state-acts to controul, delay, or modify the

operation and execution of these national compacts.

When it is considered, that the several states assembled by their delegates in congress, have express power to form treaties—surely the treaties so formed, are not afterwards to be subject to such alterations as this or that legislature may think expedient to make; and that too without the consent of either of the parties to it: that is, in the present case, without the consent of all the united states, who collectively are parties to this treaty on the one side, and his Britannic majesty on the other. Were the legislatures to possess and to exercise such power, we should soon be involved, as a nation, in anarchy and confusion at home, and in disputes which would probably terminate in hostilities and war with the nations with whom we have formed treaties. Instances would then be frequent of treaties fully executed in one state, and only partly executed in another; and of the same article being executed in one manner in one state, and in a different manner, or not at all, in another state. History furnishes no precedent of such liberties being taken with treaties, under form of law, in any nation.

Contracts between nations, like contracts between individuals, should be faithfully executed, even though the sword

sword in the one case, and the law in the other, did not compel it. Honest nations, like honest men, require no constraint to do justice; and though impunity and the necessity of affairs, may sometimes afford temptation to pare down contracts to the measure of convenience; yet it is never done but at the expence of that esteem, and confidence, and credit, which are of infinitely more worth than all the momentary advantages which such expedients can extort.

But although contracting nations cannot, like individuals, avail themselves of courts of justice to compel performance of contracts, yet an appeal to heaven, and to arms, is always in their power, and often in their inclination.

But it is their duty to take care that they never lead their people to make and support such appeals, unless the sincerity and propriety of their conduct afford them good reason to rely with confidence on the justice and protection of heaven.

Thus much we think it useful to observe, in order to explain the principles on which we have unanimously come to the following resolutions, viz.

“Resolved, that the legislatures of the several states cannot, of right, pass any act or acts, for interpreting, explaining, or construing a national treaty, or any part or clause of it; nor for restraining, limit-

ing, or in any manner impeding, retarding, or counteracting the operation of the same: for that on being constitutionally made, ratified, and published, they become in virtue of the confederation, part of the law of the land; and are not only independent of the will and power of such legislatures, but also binding and obligatory on them.”

As the treaty of peace, so far as it respects the matters and things provided for in it, is a law to the united states, which cannot by all or any of them be altered or changed, all state-acts, establishing provisions relative to the same objects, which are incompatible with it, must, in every point of view, be improper. Such acts do nevertheless exist. But we do not think it necessary either to enumerate them particularly, or to make them severally the subjects of discussion. It appears to us sufficient to observe and insist, that the treaty ought to have free course in its operation and execution, and that all obstacles, interposed by state-acts, be removed. We mean to act with the most scrupulous regard to justice and candour towards Great Britain, and with an equal degree of delicacy, moderation, and decision, towards the states which have given occasion to these discussions.

For these reasons we have in

in general terms "Resolved, that all such acts, or parts of acts as may be now existing in any of the states, repugnant to the treaty of peace, ought to be forthwith repealed; as well to prevent their continuing to be regarded as violations of that treaty, as to avoid the disagreeable necessity there might otherwise be, of raising and discussing questions touching their validity and obligation."

Although this resolution applies strictly only to such of the states as have passed the exceptionable acts alluded to, yet to obviate all future disputes and questions, as well as to remove those which now exist, we think it best that every state without exception, should pass a law on the subject. We have therefore "Resolved, that it be recommended to the several states to make such repeal rather by describing than reciting the said acts; and for that purpose, to pass an act declaring in general terms that all such acts, and parts of acts, repugnant to the treaty of peace between the united states and his Britannic majesty, or any article thereof, shall be, and thereby are repealed; and that the courts of law and equity in all cases and questions cognizable by them respectively, and arising from or touching the said treaty, shall decide and adjudge according to the true intent and meaning of the same; any thing in the said acts, or

parts of acts to the contrary thereof notwithstanding."

Such laws would answer every purpose, and be easily formed. The more they were of the like tenor throughout the states the better. They might each recite,

Whereas certain laws or statutes made and passed in some of the united states, are regarded and complained of as repugnant to the treaty of peace with Great-Britain, by reason whereof not only the good faith of the united states pledged by that treaty, has been drawn into question, but their essential interests under that treaty greatly affected. And whereas justice to Great-Britain, as well as a regard to the honour and interests of the united states, require that the said treaty be faithfully executed, and that all obstacles thereto, and particularly such as do or may be construed to proceed from the laws of this state, be effectually removed. Therefore be it enacted by

and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that such of the acts, or parts of acts, of the legislature of this state, as are repugnant to the treaty of peace between the united states and his Britannic majesty, or any article thereof, shall be, and hereby are repealed. And further, that the courts of law and equity within this state, be and they hereby are directed and required in all cau-

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ses and questions cognizable by them respectively, and arising from or touching the said treaty, to decide and adjudge according to the tenor, true intent and meaning of the same, any thing in the said acts, or parts of acts, to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

Such a general law would, we think, be preferable to one that should minutely enumerate the acts and clauses intended to be repealed, because omissions might accidentally be made in the enumeration, or questions might arise, and perhaps not be satisfactorily determined, respecting particular acts or clauses about which contrary opinions may be entertained. By repealing in general terms all acts and clauses repugnant to the treaty, the business will be turned over to its proper department, viz. the judicial: and the courts of law will have no difficulty in deciding whether any particular act or clause is or is not contrary to the treaty. Besides, when it is considered, that the judges in general are men of character and learning, and feel, as well as know, the obligations of office, and the value of reputation, there is no reason to doubt that their conduct and judgment relative to these, as well as other judicial matters, will be wise and upright.

Be pleased, sir, to lay this

letter before the legislature of your state without delay. We flatter ourselves they will concur with us in opinion that candour and justice are as necessary to true policy, as they are to sound morality, and that the most honourable way of delivering ourselves from the embarrassment of mistakes, is fairly to correct and amend them. It certainly is time that all doubts respecting the public faith be removed, and that all questions and differences between us and Great Britain, be amicably and finally settled. The states are informed of the reasons why his Britannic majesty still continues to occupy the frontier posts, which by the treaty he agreed to evacuate; and we have the strongest assurances an exact compliance with the treaty on our part, shall be followed by a punctual performance of it on the part of Great Britain.

It is important that the several legislatures should, as soon as possible, take these matters into consideration; and we request the favour of you to transmit to us an authenticated copy of such acts, and proceedings of the legislature of your state, as may take place on the subject, and in pursuance of this letter.

By order of Congress,

(Signed)

A. St. CLAIR, President.

New-York, April, 1787.

The

The following Abstract will serve to throw Light on the preceding Circular Letter.

Abstract of Lord Carmarthen's Answer to the Requisition of His Excellency John Adams, Esq. &c. &c. on the 20th of February, 1786, respecting the British Posts held on the Territories which were ceded, by the late Treaty of Peace, to the United States.

THAT when America shall manifest a real determination to fulfil her part of the treaty, Great Britain will not hesitate to prove her sincerity to co-operate in whatever points depend on her, to carry every article of it into full and complete effect.

The grievances complained of by merchants and other British subjects, having estates, property, and debts due to them in the several states, are as follow :

Massachusetts's - Bay. The act passed the third of November, 1784, suspending the payment of interest.

New York. The act of the 12th of July, 1782, by which British creditors are precluded from the claim of interest before the first of January, 1786, for debts contracted prior to the first of January, 1783, and executions on the principal are forbidden to be levied until the expiration of

three years after the evacuation of New York.

The act of the seventeenth of March, 1783, confirmed by others in 1784, and 1785, &c.

Pennsylvania. The law passed soon after the peace, to restrain the recovery of British debts for a given period.

Maryland. The act of October, 1780, allowing British debts to be paid into the treasury ; and that no provision is since made for it. The sum paid in is 144,574l. 9s. 4d. h. equal to 3,615l. 18s. 2d. currency in specie.

Virginia. By an edict of the governor, the second of July 1783, all British agents and factors who had arrived in that state, were ordered to depart the same ; which restriction was removed by the legislature in November following, and the British agents and factors were permitted to return. By an act of October, 1784, all British debts are to be paid by seven equal payments ; the first to be made the first of April, 1786, and so on annually. That no interest shall be allowed to British subjects between the nineteenth of April, 1775, and the third of March, 1783, the said time to be considered as one day. That no settlement made by bond or other specialty, shall bear interest. This act passed the house of delegates and senate, but did not at the same time receive all the formalities ;
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therefore it is doubtful whether it exists as a law. The sum paid into the treasury, on account of British creditors, 273,554l. 13s. 7d. equal to 12,035l. sterling.

North Carolina. Some acts of this state complained of, but not particularly mentioned.

South Carolina. By an ordinance, passed the twenty-sixth of March, 1784, no suit shall be instituted for a debt previous to the twenty-sixth of February, 1782, until the first of January, 1785, when the interest only, which had accrued since January, 1780, might be recovered; and on the first of January, 1786, one fourth part of the principal, and all such interest as might be then due, and so on. By another act, twelfth of October, 1785, a debtor, during any period of a suit, is allowed to tender land, which, after being valued, the creditor is obliged to take at three fourths of the valuation. These acts, and others, and the conduct of this state, are greatly complained of.

Georgia. This state is charged with having passed laws and regulations similar to those of South Carolina, with the aggravated circumstances, that the judges from the bench have declared, that no suit

shall be proceeded in, if brought by a British subject, while, on the contrary, they allow British subjects to be sued by their creditors.

That no provision is made for the real property, confiscated and sold for public service, nor for money paid into the public treasury. His lordship observes, that most of the acts, which interrupt and prevent the collection of British debts, in the preamble run thus—"Whereas this state is determined to fulfil and carry into effect the treaty in all its parts," &c. Upon the whole, that a British merchant is in some states positively, in others virtually, prohibited by the legislature from recovering his property, which is a violation of the fourth article of the treaty of peace. In several of the states, judgment for interest for more than seven years, is actually suspended by law: whilst in others, although the courts appear to be open, the lawyers are afraid to prosecute for British debts.

Those creditors are deemed fortunate, who, upon giving up all claim to interest (which is equal to thirty, and in some cases to forty per cent.) can obtain security for the payment of the principal.

The question whether public securities should be redeem'd at their nominal or their depreciated value, having, of late, being much agitated in this and some of the other states, and being of the utmost importance, the printer has been induced to insert a few of the pieces that have appeared on each side.

On Public Faith.

(Written in Massachusetts).

PUBLIC CREDIT depends on public faith. The credit of particular persons bears some proportion to their known ability: because they are subject to coercion. But government, being under no controul, supports its credit only by fidelity. Public credit should be made use of only in cases of necessity: for nations, as well as individuals, when they once begin to run on credit, are in danger of running to extravagance. But there may be, and there often are, cases which call for this expedient: and for such it should be reserved.

Public faith, once pledged, should be observed with sacred punctuality. The creditor of government should be able to view the note or promise which he receives, as competent security, and to rely on the performance, unless he, in some way or other, makes a re-

lease or remission. But so far as he, in any form whatever, remits his right, the government obligation ceases. If the creditor sells the public note *below par*, he remits such a part of his original right, and transfers to the purchaser the rest; i. e. so much as is in fact purchased. And when public securities *generally* pass, among the citizens of a commonwealth, *under par*, their sense is declared, and their consent given in the plainest manner, for a redemption at *the same rate*. And in this case, government are so far from being obliged, that they have not even a *right* to redeem them at the original value: because this is to act against the real interest and the declared sense of the people. A redemption of them at the current depreciated value, is neither injustice nor breach of faith. The original possessor is not injured: for, by alienating his security, he voluntarily relinquishes all demand in his own person. The purchaser is not injured: for he receives the sum which he advanced, with interest for forbearance: and this is to him the full value. And the interest ought, as nearly as possible, to bear a proportion to the current value of the security, and depreciate with it: for the government have no right to contradict the sense of the people, and the principles

ples of justice, in the one more than in the other. Faith is not violated in this mode of redemption: for the people, unconcerned, by buying and selling at a certain rate, have declared their acquiescence in a redemption at that rate. Both he that buys, and he that sells, at discount, clearly express their expectation, that the redemption will be at discount: otherwise, we must suppose the latter an oppressor, and the former a fool.

It has been the usage in all governments, which have had occasion for the temporary expedient of a paper medium, and the usage of this state, as well in former as latter times, to redeem their notes or bills of credit at the current value. This has been considered as the nearest approach to justice that could be made. To indemnify every *original* creditor, is now become impossible, nor does justice require it, since he has alienated his personal right. To tax the people at large, in a sum sufficient to pay every *present* possessor five, ten, or twenty times as much as he gave, would be palpable and general wrong: and it would be most *cruelly injurious* to the *original* creditors, who have relinquished the greater part of the reward promised them for public services; and are now crushed with a tax, to pay the *full* reward to another who did no part of the ser-

vice. They not only give up their own reward, but are compelled, against every principle of equity, to pay a sum besides to a man who never earned it.

It will perhaps be said, "The creditor of government sold his security under par, from necessity, being unable to wait for payment: and the purchaser bought it in expectation of gain, and therefore is entitled to the sum originally promised." But on this supposition, the purchaser is to be considered as an *extortioner*, as much as the man who takes advantage of his neighbour's necessity, to exact excessive usury for the loan of money: and as well may government interpose to defeat the oppressive intention of the *speculator* as of the *usurer*. If government may extinguish a debt originally just, only for a small addition by illicit usury, as well may it cancel a public note purchased in an extortionary manner. And besure, if the holder is only reduced to the sum which he in fact gave, with the common *lawful* interest for *that* sum, he is treated much better than the law treats the *usurer*, though, on the supposition now made, he deserves no better.

These observations easily apply to the public securities now extant, which amount to a vast nominal sum, draw an interest of six per cent. in silver,

ver ; and are ultimately to be paid in silver, according to their original and nominal value, (as many apprehend), though they pass at a great discount. The public securities of all sorts are, in real value, from about two shillings to ten shillings on the pound ; at a medium about five or six shillings on the pound. The interest pays the principal advanced by the purchaser, in four or five years : and still this principal (as many people fear) is finally to be paid, at three or four times its value, to speculators, who will thus rapidly accumulate large fortunes at the public expence.

The tax granted for the redemption of securities of a certain description, may indeed be paid in the securities themselves : and, to prevent their appreciation, the government have wisely left a part of them unfunded. But this however will not do justice. The exorbitant interest still continues. Few people are possessed of these securities. The purchase of them is attended with difficulty and expence. They are too large for the rates of many people. An association of several to purchase a note for the payment of all their rates, is an embarrassment too great for common farmers and mechanics in the country, who are not used to such kind of commerce. Some are totally ignorant of the provision, and

have actually paid hard money of equal denomination with their rates. Others have been imposed on by speculators, who had these securities for sale, and have given sixteen shillings on the pound, when they might have been bought for twelve : and many delay to pay their rates, in hopes the securities will depreciate still more. Thus the people are perplexed, and government obstructed in its measures, by a certain false delicacy to support the *appearance* of public faith, when, in reality, the only true faith is to treat things as they are.

There are many things in government, which the people in general have neither leisure to examine, nor capacity to comprehend, and which therefore they must leave, with implicit confidence, to the wisdom and integrity of their rulers. But there are a few matters equally intelligible to all men ; and on these the people ought explicitly to declare their sentiments, and positively to give their instructions, whenever the case requires. The simplest peasant sees, as plainly as the profoundest politician, that *five* is less than *twenty* ; that there is no reason, why government should give four or five times as much for a negociable commodity, as private persons give ; no reason, why the government should pay an interest of twenty or thirty per cent, when
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others pay no more than six; no reason why there should be compound interest allowed on public securities, and four per cent. besides for forbearance, in addition to the exorbitancy of the simple interest, when any thing of this kind would extinguish a private security; no reason, why the yeomanry, who are the life of the country, because they have not leisure or ability to speculate in funds, should be taxed to the last shilling, only to increase the already superior fortunes of a few in the trading towns; no reason why the poor soldier, whom necessity has constrained to sell a whole year's public service for twelve dollars, should be taxed to make that sum rise to eighty dollars in the hands of the purchaser, with an interest of four or five dollars a year besides, until the eighty dollars are paid. Here is an obvious inequality, which every disinterested person reprobates. A government constituted like ours, cannot be supposed to have an interest separate from the people: but there are some matters of such delicacy and importance, that rulers do not chuse to act, till they have the sentiments of their constituents. The case under consideration may possibly be one of those: though, one would think, their sentiments had been already declared by their conduct. Let the towns, then,

immediately assemble, and give the most positive and peremptory instructions to their representatives, that they use their influence to obtain a law for the redemption of all public securities at the rate at which they shall pass in private dealings, at the time of redemption, as nearly as that rate can be ascertained; for an equitable reduction of the interest, that is, or shall be due on securities, so that it shall not exceed six per cent. on the *real* value of the principal; and for a just discrimination between these securities and solid coin, if any should chuse to pay the latter. A proviso in favour of those who never alienated, would be just. Let the instructions be inserted in the public prints, that there may be concurrence and uniformity.

Such a law would manifestly be just, and agreeable to the constant usage of this country in similar cases, and to the measures adopted by congress for the redemption of the continental currency, though there were many reasons for redeeming *that*, according to the face of the bills, which do not take place now: for these securities have not been made a tender, nor the refusal of them made penal: but they are, as they ought to be, a commodity negotiated among the people as they can agree. Such a law would do much

much to quiet the growing discontent, and relieve the increasing distresses of the people; it would give them hope and courage; it would take off that dead weight which lies on their spirits; it would rouse them from that torpid despair, which congeals their blood, and stiffens every nerve, when a public demand is made on them; it would give a new direction to their minds, and brighten the lowering aspect of public affairs; it would encourage frugality and industry, and check the progress of that dissipation, which is a natural and unfailing consequence of despair; it would give vigour to government, by increasing people's confidence in it, and kindling in them a zeal to support it; it would prompt them to manly and generous exertions for the common good, by calling hope to their aid; and finally, by reducing our domestic debt within the bounds of justice, reason, and common sense, it would enable us to do justice to our foreign creditors, and so to keep our faith, and maintain our reputation abroad.

Reply to the preceding Essay.

A Writer upon the subject of "public faith," has advanced such outre conclusions from his premises, as cannot but attract the attention of the public.

He says, "public faith once pledged, should be observed with sacred punctuality." This hypothesis no one denies. How then can he, with propriety, draw this conclusion, that "if a creditor sells his notes (issued on the public faith) below par, the government are so far from being obliged, that they have not even a right to redeem them at their original value?" I would ask the gentleman, in this case, how "public faith" can be observed with "sacred punctuality," when so notorious a breach is practised by the government? How can a government support its credit by "fidelity," when it becomes wavering on the whims and caprice of every individual? Or can the private sale, or purchase of those notes, which are issued upon their "faith," in the least degree alter the first intentions of their emission, or annul a real debt which the government has declared is due to the bearer?

The sum specified in the note, is acknowledged as due from the government to the possessor: and the "public faith" is pledged for the payment: with what propriety, therefore, can government interfere between the seller and purchaser, by offering to pay only a depreciated value, when the "public faith" is pledged for the nominal sum?

It is supposed, previous to

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the emission of the notes, that government had received an *equivalent*, otherwise the notes would never have existed: why then should they refuse to pay a debt which they acknowledge to be due from them, because the original possessor, from certain private circumstances, thought fit to dispose of it for something below its specified value?

Suppose for instance, government has received an advantage from an individual, which they chuse to reward with one hundred pounds, payable at a certain period—the person who receives it, either from necessity, or for immediate application of the money, disposes of it for one third of its value. When the period arrives, the person who purchased it, presents it for payment. With what “*justice*” can the note be considered by *them* as *depreciated* because he purchased it “*below par*”? Is this *private contract* between these individuals to operate so far as to *annihilate any part of the debt* which was due to the original owner?—Or can the price given in the least degree alter the *nature* of the obligation, or lessen a debt which is *acknowledged* to be due from the *government*? The question is, do government owe the debt?—If so, their *obligations* are equally as good in the hands of one man as in another, the “*public faith*” being pledged

for their redemption: neither can it be observed with “*sacred punctuality*,” if they are subject to the least *depreciation*. A redemption of a note at a depreciated rate, for which government has acknowledged an *equivalent*, must be conceived as the highest “*injustice*,” want of “*fidelity*” to their engagement, and a most notorious breach of “*public faith*.” The most absurd reasoning is obvious throughout the whole piece alluded to: the gentleman says, “so far as a creditor, in any form whatever, remits his right, the government obligation *ceases*.”—What possible connection can the government’s obligations have with an individual as to the disposal of his notes? *He may give them away*; and upon this principle the government’s obligation *totally* ceases, as the original possessor, in this instance, “remits his right,” without any consideration whatever. Pray was the note given with a proviso that the original possessor should for ever retain it, or that government was not to be obliged to pay, if it was sold for less than its specified value? Quite the reverse: a bona fide debt is acknowledged: and the “*public faith*” is surety that it shall be paid, at a certain period, to the *bearer*. It stands, then, a *negociable note*, and the *possessor* is the *creditor*. The “*public faith*” is pledged to

to him individually: and government have no right to redeem it one fraction below par. Suppose the French nation had refused payment of their bills of exchange, at their nominal value, because they were selling in America at thirty three and one-third per cent. discount.

In what absurdity must all public measures be involved, upon the principles advanced by this gentleman! In short, so far from "public faith" becoming the standard, the mere whims of individuals must be the rule to ascertain all our political conduct. So far from government supporting their credit from their own fidelity, they must depend on the private negotiations of individuals: and, to determine them in their measures, they must appoint officers to stand at every corner of the street, to enquire of the passengers, How stands the 'public faith?' In what a ludicrous state would this person place government, to reduce them to the pitiful business of becoming mere stock-pimps, and degrading the national dignity, by suffering any exchange-jobbing to sully their pledged faith and honour, and, like the thermometer, to rise and fall at every change of circumstances!

The gentleman tells us of the "depreciated value" of our state-notes; but leaves us in the dark as to what first

gave occasion to it. The original owner surely did not: neither could the purchaser by any art or finesse so far undervalue them. No: they became in bad repute by the conduct of that government which issued them. The "public faith," in the first instance, was injured by *them*: for if *they* had fulfilled their engagements, the public credit would have continued *fixed* and *permanent*. Previous actions, relating to the old and new emission, with many other circumstances, had destroyed that public confidence which ought ever to subsist in government. This want of confidence drove the soldier to sell his note at a discount: and by not regularly paying our soldiery, we reduced them to such immediate want, that they were obliged to sell their notes on their receiving them: and the sale operated at market, as in all cases, where there are many sellers and few buyers.

All wise nations endeavour to discharge their debts by the greatest order and exactness of financeering. But, on the principles advanced by this gentleman, their conduct is entirely impolitic: so far from acting with caution and attention to pay their debts, they ought to commit the greatest blunders: instead of finances and appropriated funds, they should throw their pecuniary concerns into confusion. This would

412 *Speech of a Member of the Gen. Court of Massachusetts.*

would serve to destroy the public confidence, and of consequence depreciate their notes, and lower the stocks. When they have gone thus far, they are to call them in at the "circulating value," and plead the "consent of individuals to redeem them at the same rate." Quite a new mode of process; and I think the gentleman ought to be rewarded (though at a depreciated rate) for his ingenuity.

The observations that could be made on the piece alluded to, are too many for this essay. I shall therefore pass them over in silence, as many sentiments advanced by this writer, are too absurd to be seriously refuted. His many contradictions sometimes lead me to suppose him writing ironically; more particularly at the latter part, when he says, "this mode of conduct would give vigour to government, by increasing people's confidence in it." A reply to this inconsistency would be treating the public with indignity. His arguments are the mere froth of sophistry, and calculated to mislead, rather than to inform; to make difficulties, rather than to remove them: and the writer is so far from having any regard to the "honour," "fidelity," or "justice" of the state, that he seems inclined to annihilate them all.

Before I conclude, I shall

make a general observation, that at this crisis we have those amongst us, who know that a few artful arguments, addressed rather to our *feelings* than our *judgment*, would have a tendency to *disunite* us in our councils; *embarrass* us in our finances; *derange* our measures; and make us *uneasy* in our present situation. Our "public faith" they wish to be blasted. They want to lower us in the opinion of our allies, and, in a word, to set us at variance among ourselves, and make us despised by the world.

A Friend to the Community.



Speech of a Member of the General Court of Massachusetts, on the Question whether the Public Securities should be redeemed at their Current Value.

THE idea, mr. Speaker, of redeeming the various species of our public securities, at their present depreciated value, has never till now been suggested; and I hope, for the honour of the government, will be never agitated again within these walls: as it not only affects the rights of the subject in a very interesting point, but, if it had the sanction of a law, would forever destroy all confidence in the faith and integrity of the public. Societies, sir, become respectable on the same principles

ciples by which the character of individuals is maintained. Dishonesty in either is equally opposed to wisdom, and equally pernicious to their true interest. It may give a momentary relief: but its favourable effects will soon vanish. Distrust, and even abhorrence, will succeed: and the imposition once detected, will hang as a perpetual clog on the progress of any future undertaking. It is, then, not the duty only, but the prosperity, and perhaps even the existence of a country, are involved in the performance of its contracts. As to those, therefore, who assert that a measure which is morally wrong, may be politically right, they hold a doctrine contradicted by the uncorrupted opinions of the world, and subversive of all political system: for it is clear to demonstration, that a disposition to take every advantage that power would give, would operate as the most cruel tyranny, however it were sanctioned by the forms of a free government. Such conduct, in my idea, would amount to little short of political suicide, and would go near to sap the foundation of the best established monarchy in Europe. The law, in our private transactions, mr. Speaker, will always act as a collateral check on the views of the individual: and his principles and fears are both of them engaged in

the discharge of his duty. But in our connection with the state, we have little else but its faith to confide in: and, of course, this faith should be preserved with the most sacred punctuality. When the promise is once plighted, government that moment descends to the rank of an individual, and all it has to do, is to fall on some effectual measures to fulfil its engagements. It cannot hesitate a moment about the worth which the public give to its securities, without incurring the odious and scandalous imputation of being judge and party in its own cause.

Why, then, do we talk of the hardship of being obliged to redeem our certificates at their full value, because they are daily purchased at a far less sum than they were issued for by the state? It is a misfortune, indeed, to the original proprietor, that he is obliged to sell at so low a rate. But it cannot be considered as a crime, unless it be a crime in the state, so long to have delayed the execution of its most solemn obligations: and if this is really the case, shall the government receive a benefit from that for which the law provides a penalty?

But we seem to be afraid that those who have speculated in our funds, will grow too rich, and at the expence of the people at large. As to the latter part of the proposition, the

the people are not the poorer, let who will be their creditors: and as to the idea of wealth being accumulated by speculating in our public securities, there is not a man who has ever trusted the state or the continent, persuaded by its assurances, but has been sure to lose by it.

If we examine the policy of every other country, sir, speculations in the funds are rather encouraged than disapproved by the government. They are considered as the pulse of the body-politic: and though its feeble vibrations may, at any time, announce both languor and decay, they still demonstrate those remains of animation, which demand relief, and preclude despair. They are the barometer, mr. Speaker, of modern power; and explain the strength of a community beyond the calculations of arithmetic. They are founded in the necessities of mankind, and in the different ideas which different people entertain of the honour and resources of government: and if those who have the most favourable opinions, and are the most firmly attached to its interests, have the best claims to its protection, then surely are we bound by every tie of honour, gratitude, and policy, to reward their confidence in our promises. In fact, the warmest friends of the revolution would be the greatest

sufferers by a national bankruptcy: while those who have always regarded our public professions, as tricks to deceive them, would preserve their property.

As a proof of the justice of these observations, we have only to cast our eyes to the state of that nation from whose detested yoke we are now freed, and we shall presently see that it is only owing to the implicit confidence reposed in her promises, that she still retains her present power and reputation: and is it possible to believe, that we have neither virtue nor wisdom to adopt that policy from an enemy, whence she has derived such essential benefits—America, under every advantage which nature and liberty afford, while Britain but presents the mutilated remains of her former grandeur, like a statue thrown from its pedestal, its trunk entire, but its extremities forever separated?

But if we admit the *will*, and only dispute our *ability* to do justice to the public creditors, I should wish to be informed as to the evidence in support of this opinion. Are we not in the dawn of life, our population rapid, our resources many of them unimproved, and all of them rapidly increasing, perfectly free from, and wholly unincumbered by those oppressive and enormous establishments, whether

ther civil, military, or ecclesiastical, by which the common people of every other country are impoverished? Is not the idea of poverty, which many are fond of inculcating, absurd and chimerical, founded on partial views and erroneous calculations, a spectre raised to disconcert the measures of government, and to impede the course of justice, and for no other reason but to indulge the meanness of avarice, or to promote the views of faction?

Should we, however, be forced to confess the melancholy truth, that our country, after all, is not worth the money it has really cost to defend it, and if the peace and safety of the commonwealth demand the sacrifice of the firmest friends of our independence, in order to its preservation, let us convene our creditors and request their indulgence. Any thing would be preferable to the low wretched arts so industriously played off to perplex and embarrass, without a single expedient being suggested for the common good. In this situation, we should then do as honest men ought to do. While we acknowledged our poverty, we should preserve our reputation; and though we might be justly ridiculed for our conduct, after all the parade about the superior blessings of our boasted revolution, we still could not be reproached with dishonesty.

But who are the people, Mr. Speaker, who are thus perpetually talking of our poverty, and offering it as a reason to justify the measures of the delinquent states, either as to the constitutional requisitions of congress, or as to those federal improvements, without which, experience has already demonstrated the utter impracticability of our preserving the union? At what period have they fought, what money have they loaned or given, or what services have they rendered the commonwealth, unless murmuring is a benefit, and chicanery a virtue? In this view they ought to be crowned with laurels for their patriotic exertions, as their zeal is unremitted. No, Mr. Speaker, there is not a person of this description, who ever has, or ever will assist the country with a farthing. They stand unmoved at our distress; and are only afraid that they shall be made to contribute what they ought long since cheerfully to have performed. I blush that such citizens exist. I lament that they are Americans: for they would be a dishonour to any country, but are the bane of an infant community like ours.

If the clamours of discontent, however, must be admitted as proofs of public infelicity, the annals of every nation, and even in its happiest periods, are authentic evidence that no country has yet been happy,

happy, as every era has been marked by the same apparent dissatisfaction in a large part of the community. In our retrospect of the past, many are too apt to view none but the pleasing parts of the picture. We think only of the advantages of our former situation; and forget the dangers we have escaped, and the real sufferings by which we have been oppressed. Instead of gratitude to the Great God of Peace for his distinguished mercy, we assail the heavens with our impious clamours.

This, however, is not a general character of the people--it is but the result of that busy and restless spirit by which faction is always marked, and to the malignant influence of which every free country is exposed, though it ought always to be reprobated.

But it will be immediately asked, whether our trade is not distressed, our debts great, our money decreasing, our imports immense, our exports inconsiderable, and our navigation annihilated. This, sir, is the gloomy portrait either of disappointed vanity, of factious views, or even sometimes of honest but unreflecting patriotism, and daily exhibited to the world as an exact representation of the present state of America. It would require too much time to investigate the subject at large, and to answer every question in its or-

der. But it is very certain most of these, tho' evidently heightened in their representations, are the natural effects of the war in which we have been engaged, and in which the labour of our citizens has been diverted from its proper objects. This interruption of labour, arising in a great measure from our having been the immediate theatre of hostile operations, together with the debt existing at the beginning, and the want of many of the necessaries, and most of the conveniencies of social life, at the conclusion of the war, joined to the effects of the sanguine expectations of mercantile adventurers, both on this and the other side of the Atlantic, may be considered as the efficient springs of the present difficulties. We either wanted, or fancied we wanted, what we had not the proper means of remittance to pay for; and of consequence have been drained of our specie to discharge our respective obligations. But it is easy to see that these defects are now working their remedy. Our importations have lessened, industry is substituted to expedient, and we are beginning to confine our attention to our own internal resources, to our manufactures, to agriculture, and to our fishery. Our wants have lessened, and we shall infallibly deduce those habits of frugality and industry, from the

the very misfortunes which extravagance never fails to introduce.

If then our situation is neither so bad as has been represented, nor is likely to continue so bad as it is at present, what is it we want? We want system and arrangement. We want the virtue and the union of sentiment in peace, which have saved us in the war. We want a serious, firm, and permanent determination in the government to do justice. We want the influence of an honest example, and it lies with this state to set it. Let us not then enquire whether the other states are doing as they ought to do, but let us do our duty, and trust to the event: and if it is impossible, that justice, honour and liberty can subsist on this continent, let it never be said that it is our fault. Ours has been the post of honour on all arduous occasions; and let us not, at this period of the revolution, forfeit the well-earned reputation we have acquired in its early stages, by ridiculous surmises, and that absurd jealousy of congress which at last must change the constitution itself. By such policy, confidence in the government will be restored, the public securities will not be confined in the chests of speculators; by paying the interest, they will come in demand; they will supply the place of the specie we have lost; they will get into

every body's hands; the value of all our property will rise, as the medium to represent it, is increased; and instead of being considered as a curse, the PUBLIC DEBT will become a PUBLIC BLESSING.



On the Redemption of Public Securities.

YOU have desired my sentiments with respect to the payment of public securities: for answer I send you the following parable:

Two merchants, for want of a sufficient fund to support their trade, gave negociable bills of credit for labour and the loan of money, to be paid at a certain time. But, before the time of payment came, the credit of the merchants was shaken; and money grew so scarce, that their bills were sold much below their nominal sum. Hence a dispute arose between the merchants, whether they should pay as they had received, or according to the folly or necessities of those who had sold their bills.

At the time of payment, a labourer went to one of the merchants, and desired him to be as good as his promise, and take up his bill.

The merchant replied, some who had bills of me, have sold them for a trifle; and I am unwilling to pay you any more than this bill cost you.

The labourer answered, sir,
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this bill cost me what it expresses. But if it did not, it was thought you were a man of truth and justice, who dealt upon honour, and were disposed to pay in value, as you received; or you would not have found a man to take a bill of you.

The merchant said, my promise has been undervalued, and if I might be countenanced by law, I could save money to myself, and not deal unjustly with hawkers.

The labourer asked, would you become a hawker? We read in the face of the bill what you received, and your promise: and would you return only a trifle?

The merchant demanded, where is the dishonesty in paying only what you gave for the bill?

The labourer answered: in you, sir, it would be violating the truth, dealing fraudulently with your creditors, and introducing a practice that would destroy the credit of all negotiable notes and trade: and if your disposition had been known, you would not have the opportunity of promising to pay fifty pounds for value received, and then turning away your creditors with only a tenth part.

The merchant said, I have not wherewith to redeem my bills according to my promise. What shall I do?

The labourer rejoined:

You may yet behave as an honest man, and not wish for a law that shall shew you to be void of truth and justice. Desire your creditors to have patience with you, until you can pay them with honour; or give up all you have obtained with your creditors' money, and let them divide it among themselves: for it is better to die an honest man, than to live a knave.

The labourer then went to the other merchant with a bill, and desired him to reimburse him the money.

The merchant answered, sir, I have a sacred regard for my promise, and delight in righteousness. But providence has so frowned upon me, that my creditors became jealous of me, and some have sold my bills under what I received for them. But it is not just for me to make the follies or the necessities of men the rule of my conduct. My word is given to the bearer: my honour, justice, and the interest of trade, require me to shun every appearance of fraud. Pray have patience with me, and I will contract my expences, and exert myself to pay you all. I shall not depart from righteousness, but return in value as I have received, and promised in my bills.

The labourer said, sir, I revere a man of your integrity, and will wait your time with pleasure.

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If our assemblies were of the sentiments of the honest merchant, and strictly adhered to truth and justice, they might with good œconomy exalt themselves, and be honoured by the people. But if individuals be defrauded, to save money for the public, jealousy will spread among the people, government fall into contempt, and anarchy ensue.

Extract from the late Address of the General Court of Massachusetts, to their Constituents.

WE are informed that the public securities are now sold at a lower rate, than at any former period: but suppose there was no depreciation on any of those securities, perhaps the sums we have paid in taxes, in hiring men, and purchasing supplies for the army, within the last eight years, are more than the whole amount both of our state debt and our proportion of the continental debt.

If the public had been able to prevent the depreciation of the public securities, we think strict justice would have required it: but notwithstanding the most solemn promises of future payment, that depreciation has taken place; perhaps, therefore, a criminal breach of faith is not imputable to the public counsels: but if, when it is in our pow-

er, we refuse to redeem the securities, what excuse shall we have? Can we be willing, that the history of the American revolution shall be blackened with the tale, that we refused to redeem the securities we had given to effect it? and shall our posterity blush to hear of the event, because the perfidy of their ancestors exceeded their glory?

Some have observed, that the continental currency is not redeemed but at the rate of seventy-five for one; and propose that the whole debt be reduced by law to the present current value: but is there not a wide difference between the cases? The first emissions of that currency were comparatively small: after it had suffered a depreciation beyond what has happened to any of the public securities, immense sums were brought into circulation, and the public received a consideration for them, not more than at the rate of one for forty or fifty, and perhaps more. It was therefore thought unreasonable to redeem them at the nominal value. Besides, if the securities should be reduced by law to five shillings in the pound, they would instantly fall in their current value to one shilling: there would then be the same reason for reducing them to that sum, and from thence to nothing.

If an individual is involved in

in debt, both prudence and honesty require him to be frugal, and pay his debts as soon as may be. By a long and expensive war, we incurred a large public debt, though far less than our enemies incurred. But instead of using every effort to pay it, divers persons have employed themselves in devising methods to get rid of it, without payment. Many, indeed, have employed much more time and money to this end, than (if better employed) might have purchased their whole proportion of the public securities. They allege that many of the first possessors have been obliged to sell them for little more than one-third of their amount; and therefore that the present holders ought to receive no more. But we should do well to remember, that the public have received the full value of all the notes they have issued. They were made transferable by law, and many of them have been sold. But if we had paid them, as we promised, very few would have been sold: and shall we take no measures to pay them now, because we have omitted the payment so long?

It is said to be unreasonable to compel the man who has been obliged to sell his securities at a low rate, to redeem them at the nominal value. This observation is made with an ill grace, when every

man, who has sold his notes, can purchase them again at a lower rate, than he sold them.

The nations of Europe are unable to maintain war without borrowing: much less could we. But in case of a war, who would lend us, if our neglecting seven years to pay the sum borrowed, will justify our not paying at all?

Policy, therefore, as well as justice, demands, that we do all in our power to satisfy our creditors. In private life, the man who avails himself of artifice and fraud, will soon find his character blasted, and himself the object of contempt: while he who, encompassed with difficulties, maintains an honest course, may hope for the friendship of man, and the favour of heaven. The same will be the case in states and communities, so long as "Righteousness exalteth a nation."



On the Philadelphia Convention.

IT seems to be generally felt and acknowledged, that the affairs of this country are in a ruinous situation. With vast resources in our hands, we are impoverished by the continual drain of money from us in foreign trade; our navigation is destroyed; our people are in debt and unable to pay; industry is at a stand; our public treaties are violated, and national

tional faith, solemnly plighted to foreigners, and to our own citizens, is no longer kept. We are discontented at home, and abroad we are insulted and despised.

In this exigency, people naturally look to the continental convention, in hopes that their wisdom will provide some effectual remedy for this complication of disorders. It is, perhaps, the last opportunity which may be presented to us of establishing a permanent system of continental government: and, if this opportunity be lost, it is much to be feared that we shall fall into irretrievable confusion.

How the great object of their meeting is to be attained, is a question which deserves to be seriously considered. Some men, there is reason to believe, have indulged the idea of reforming the united states, by means of some refined and complicated schemes of organizing a future congress, in a different form. These schemes, like many others, with which we have been amused in times past, will be found to be merely visionary, and produce no lasting benefit. The error is not in the form of congress, the mode of election, or the duration of the appointment of the members. The source of all our misfortunes is evidently in the want of sufficient power in congress. To be convinced

of this melancholy, this important truth, we need but recollect the vigour, the energy, the unanimity of this country a few years past, even in the midst of a war, *when congress governed the continent*. We have gradually declined into feebleness, anarchy, and wretchedness, from that period in which the several states began to exercise [usurped] the sovereign and absolute right of treating the recommendations of congress with contempt. From that time to the present, we have seen the great federal head of our union clothed with the authority of making treaties, without the power of fulfilling them; of contracting debts, without being able to discharge them, or to bind others to discharge them; of regulating our trade, and providing for the general welfare of the people, in their concerns with foreign nations, without the power of restraining a single individual from the infraction of their orders, or restricting any trade, however injurious to the public welfare.

To remedy these evils, some have weakly imagined that it is necessary to annihilate the several states, and vest congress with the absolute direction and government of the continent, as one single republic. This, however, would be impracticable and mischievous. In so extensive a country, many local
and

and internal regulations would be required, which congress could not possibly attend to, and to which the states individually are fully competent; but those things which alike concern all the states, such as our foreign trade, and foreign transactions, congress should be fully authorized to regulate, and should be invested with the power of enforcing their regulations.

The ocean which joins us to other nations, would seem to be the scene upon which congress might exert its authority with the greatest benefit to the united states, as no one state can possibly claim any exclusive right in it. It has been long seen that the states individually cannot, with any success, pretend to regulate trade. The duties and restrictions which one state imposes, the neighbouring states enable the merchants to elude; and besides, if they could be enforced, it would be highly unjust, that the duties collected in the ports of one state, should be applied to the sole use of that state in which they are collected, whilst the neighbouring states, which have no ports for foreign commerce, consume a part of the goods imported, and thus in effect pay a part of the duties. Even if the recommendation of congress had been attended to, which proposed the levying, for the use of congress, five per cent. on

goods imported, to be collected by officers to be appointed by the individual states, it is more than probable that the laws would have been feebly executed. Men are not apt to be sufficiently attentive to the business of those who do not appoint, and cannot remove or controul them. Officers would naturally look up to the state which appointed them: and it is past a doubt, that some of the states would esteem it no unpardonable sin, to promote their own particular interest, or even that of particular men, to the injury of the united states.

Would it not then be right to vest congress with the sole and exclusive power of regulating trade, of imposing port-duties, of appointing officers to collect these duties, of erecting ports, and deciding all questions by their own authority, which concern foreign trade and navigation upon the high seas? Some of those persons, who have conceived a narrow jealousy of congress, and therefore have unhappily obstructed their exertions for the public welfare, may perhaps be startled at the idea, and make objections. To such I would answer, that our situation appears to be sufficiently desperate, to justify the hazarding an experiment of any thing which promises immediate relief. Let us try this for a few years: and if we find it attended

attended with mischief, we can refuse to renew the power. But it appears to me to be necessary and useful: and I cannot conceive that it would in the least degree endanger our liberties. The representatives of the states in congress are easily changed, as often as we please: and they must necessarily be changed often. They would have little inclination, and less ability, to enterprize against the liberties of their constituents. The measure here proposed, would, no doubt, induce the necessity of employing a small number of armed vessels, to enforce the regulations of congress, and would be the beginning of a continental navy: but a navy was never esteemed, like

a standing army, dangerous to the liberty of the people.

To those who should object that this is too small a power to grant congress---that many more are necessary to be added to those which they already possess---I can only say that perhaps they have not sufficiently reflected upon the great importance of the power proposed. That it would be of immense service to the country, I have no doubt, as it is the only means by which our trade can be established on such a footing as to enable us to contend against the selfish and (may I not add?) hostile systems of other nations. That it would, in the event, greatly strengthen the hands of congress, is evident. Z.

RURAL CONCERNS.

Caution against Insects.

RIDING out a few days before the last harvest with one of my neighbours, and passing by a field of beautiful grain, we perceived a large patch of the wheat totally blackened with something or other,---we knew not what; but upon examination found it covered with millions of flies. We were at a loss, at first, how to account for so extraordinary an appearance in one part of the field only: but upon look-

ing round, we observed a large heap of corn-stalks and husks, which had rotted, lying by the side of the fence, from which those destructive flies still issued in amazing numbers. The owner of the land had raised a crop of Indian corn in the same field last year, and very probably had husked his corn in that spot, or in cleaning his field from the stalks or stems, had laid them there, as being an out-of-the-way place. Like myself, he never knew that corn-stalks, to all appearance extremely

extremely dry, laid together, would prove so dangerous, and until he felt it, never reflected that the sweet juice these stalks contain, when corrupted, would give existence to innumerable insects; if he had, he would have kindled a blaze and have burnt them. It is the method I intend to pursue henceforward.

Indian corn is an useful grain, and our farmers in Pennsylvania begin to raise great quantities of it. I earnestly wish they would, as soon as they gather in the ear and their fodder, also gather the stems and burn them: it will undoubtedly be a little more labour; but what will that labour be, compared to the advantage they will reap from it in the end?---much of their grain, which is annually destroyed, will be preserved to them. It is difficult to destroy insects when they once generally infest our grain-fields, and I am fully persuaded, the causes of their appearance may always be traced out to neglects of this nature. It is a heart-breaking sight to a farmer to behold the fruits of his labour nipt in the bud. It is enough that we may one day or other experience famine and pestilence from droughts, from storms and tempests, and whirlwinds, and from periodical visitations of insects without number.---We ought to beware lest, by our own sloth and idle-

ness, we bring an untimely calamity upon ourselves. But when people know the causes of evils, they are generally wise enough to avoid them if they can. I hope it will be the case here. Too little attention is paid to farming at present in this country; and indeed it is strange it should be so, for agriculture is of the utmost importance to the people of America. It is high time it was reduced to a system. In some of the old countries, they have gone so far as to serve apprenticeships to the business. It is a beautiful as well as an useful and necessary art, and ought to become part of the education of every man. Should a foreigner, who has been used to the fertile and well-cultivated European farms, travel thro' many parts of Pennsylvania, he would be surprised to find--not that we have improved so little of our lands,---but that what we have begun to work upon and improve, is so sadly disordered, and so irregularly managed.

I love my country, and hope to live to see her flourish; and therefore wish her utmost attention to be employed in a matter of so much moment. WHEAT (and indeed every other grain) is a staple commodity in Pennsylvania, to say nothing of the other states; and surely it needs no uncommon experience to pronounce, that without a due attention

to staple commodities throughout the united states, we never can support our rank among the nations of the earth as ONE mighty commonwealth: the reason is plain; our commerce will not be worth the attention of foreign nations: and, in proportion as that decreases, we will fall into insignificance.

The relation of an interesting fact may perhaps be some apology for the plain language of
A FARMER.
Franklin Co. Aug. 15, 1785.

Letter on the Culture of Hemp.

*By Joseph Blaney, Esq.
and Mr. Samuel Barton,
of Salem, in New England.*

Published by order of the Boston Committee of Agriculture.

THE raising of hemp within this state, is a matter of such consequence, as to demand the attention of every one that has the real interest of the state at heart, especially at this time, when our trade is so much discouraged.

One hundred acres of good land, for each town within the state, would be sufficient to raise such a quantity of it, as would, when dressed, be equal, if not superior, in value, to the fisheries within the state. What then would be the value of it when converted into canvas, cordage, &c.? And what numbers of the industrious poor

would it employ? Surprising! that no proper measures have been taken to introduce so useful, so profitable a branch of business.

Being sensible that we could take no better method to promote this branch of husbandry, than by going into the practical part thereof ourselves; we accordingly last spring sowed ten acres of land with hemp-seed, nine in the drill method, and one in the common way.

The land we made use of in the drill-method, was in general very indifferent; and had, except half an acre of new land, borne several crops, immediately before; the greatest part more than three crops: but by the force of tillage, the hemp grew to a good height, from 4 to 7 feet. The half acre of new land we broke up early in the spring with a four-coultered plough; but finding we could not bring it into such a degree of tilth, by the 22d of May, as to ridge it, were obliged to sow it on a level: we sowed it in rows, and had a good crop of hemp.

We made use of no manure for any land; but are of opinion that proper manure would have been of service: for hemp is a plant of quick growth, and requires a great deal of nourishment in a short time.

We made use of five-foot ridges, two rows on each ridge of 10 inches in the partitions,
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and found the intervals and partitions to answer very well.

We sowed near a bushel of seed upon an acre in the drill-way, and two bushels and a half in the common way; but think, if the land be good, that one bushel and a half in the former, and three bushels in the latter method, would be better.

We sowed our land at different times, viz. April 14th, 18th, May 7th, 14th, 22d, 28th; thence conclude, that the best time for sowing hemp is as early in the spring as the land can well be prepared; and that any time before the middle of May will do.

The quantity of hemp in the common way, if the land be good and well dressed, will be about one-third more the first year than the drill-way. If the land be indifferent, the quantities will be nearly equal. If the land be poor, the greatest quantity will be in the drill-way.

We choose the drill-method, being the most certain, producing the best stalks, exhausting the land the least, and, in the end, we believe, the most profitable.

But the common method, for a new country, we think the best, it requiring less labour, and land being plenty and cheap.

From the best of our land, in the drill-method, we had at the rate of seven cwt. to an acre;

and from the best of that piece sowed in the common way, at the rate of 10cwt. part of a piece sowed in the common way being wet and cold, the hemp was very indifferent.*

We sowed nine separate pieces of various soils: thence found that the best soils we had for hemp were a *rich, sandy loam*, and a *deep, dry, black mould*; and that cold, clayey, wet, and gravelly lands are the most improper.

In order to try the different growth of hemp sown in the drill method, and by hand, without further cultivation of the soil, we sowed a small strip of the same ground in the latter method, which was sowed in the other. The effect was, that none of the plants in the small strip rose higher than one foot and a half; whereas those cultivated by the plough reached to four and a half and five feet in height.

We would observe, that the more tillage we gave our land, the greater was the quantity of hemp:—that rich heavy land did not produce more than land that had borne several crops:—that it is very essential for hemp, that land be brought to a great degree of fineness by tillage, or proper manure and tillage jointly:—that new land

* Hemp may generally be valued in cash, in this state, from seven to eight dollars per cwt.

should

should be broke up the summer or fall before.

We would also observe, that the hemp bears a drought as well or better than Indian

corn; and it is not so liable to be cut off by an early frost; and that there is no more difficulty in the culture of it, than of flax.

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL TRACTS.

Case of a Cancer in the Stomach.

By James Carmichael Smyth, M. D. F. R. S. Physician Extraordinary to the King of England.

A Man about thirty years of age, was in June 1778, admitted into the Middlesex Hospital. He had been long in a bad state of health and was extremely pale and emaciated. From the beginning of his illness, his chief complaint was a constant pain at his stomach, which at times was extremely violent, and was accompanied with a vomiting of an acid and very offensive matter. He complained also of a strong pulsation a little below the scrobiculus cordis, which pulsation was so remarkable as to induce many persons to suspect that it was occasioned by an aneurism of the aorta, or cœliac artery. He had tried many remedies, but from none of them had he received any permanent relief. He lived only six weeks after his admission into the hospital; and, during that time, thought his sufferings somewhat alleviated, by the

use of absorbents, and extract of hemlock.

Upon examining the body after death, the stomach was found adhering both to the liver and to the pancreas. The liver itself was perfectly sound. But a large portion of the pancreas, where it adhered to the stomach, was quite hard and schirrous: the remaining part was free from disease. On laying open the stomach, we observed, upon that part which adhered to the liver, an ulcer about the size of a shilling, of a cancerous appearance, with hard edges, which had completely eroded, not only the coats of the stomach, but also the peritoneal coat of the liver, so that the substance of this viscus formed part of the parietes of the stomach. There was an ulcer of the same kind, though smaller, on that part of the stomach which adhered to the schirrous portion of the pancreas, and besides these, there were several small indurations on different parts of the stomach, and in some of them an appearance of beginning ulceration.

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Although the cancer of the stomach is one of those unfortunate cases in which the most exact knowledge of the disease cannot assist in pointing out a successful mode of practice; yet the examination of such diseases by dissection, may be of use, by enabling us to form a more certain prognostic, in cases of a similar nature. In the preceding, there are two circumstances, which particularly claim our notice. In the first place, we have an example of a morbid alteration in the body, (viz. the adhesion of the stomach to the liver) being of service in prolonging the life of the animal; and secondly, we see that a strong pulsation may be occasioned, not only by an aneurism, or disease of the artery, but that a schirrous tumour lying immediately above it, will produce the same effect.

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Account of a Hydrocephalus Internus of a prodigious Size, in an Adult.

By Frederic Michaelis, M. D.

INSTANCES of this dreadful disease, where the unhappy sufferers live to a considerable age, are very uncommon, and therefore deserve particular attention. Dr. Aurivillius, of Upsal, has published a case of this sort, the subject of which was forty-five years of age: and I lately met with one in America, where the patient, at the time

I saw him, was twenty-nine years old.

This miserable being lives near the famous Pesaic Falls, in the state of New Jersey. His name is Peter Van Winckel: he was born in 1754, of Dutch parents, who, as well as his brothers and sisters, are in perfect health. Three weeks after his birth, his mother first perceived, that his head was uncommonly large, and that the bones of the scull were much farther asunder than usual. This complaint soon increased to such a degree, that he entirely lost the use of his limbs, a slight motion of his arms excepted; and has never since been able to quit his cradle, unless carried by three or four people. As he has made no use of his feet, they have remained extremely small; and look like those of a boy of twelve years old, forming an odd contrast with the rest of his body, which is as large as that of a full-grown person. His hands, indeed, though not quite so small in proportion as his feet, are, for the same reason, much more delicate than might be expected at his time of life. I measured him, and found that from the feet to the chin, he measured four feet five inches, and from the chin to the vertex, exactly one foot, so that his whole length was five feet five inches, making some allowance for a slight error on account of the difficulty of

of measuring him with accuracy, his body and legs being much contracted, and he being unable to straiten himself. But the dimensions of his head I took with the utmost precision; and found that it measured from the extremity of the chin to the root of the nose, seven inches; and from thence over the head, (which was almost bald) to the nape of the neck, twenty-five inches. The circumference of the head, round the temporal bones, was thirty-two inches. This monstrous head he was unable to move, unless assisted by others.

He had a thick beard, and his features were strong and masculine. His limbs were neither ricketty nor deformed, except his left hand, which had lately become distorted, from its having constantly remained unmoved in a bent position. The right side of his head was flattened by lying more on that than on the left side. But he was unable to continue for any length of time on either.

I was surprised to find that his pupils were neither enlarged, nor slow in their contraction; that he had no particular inclination to sleep; that his appetite and digestion were perfectly good, and his evacuations in general regular. But he had, at times, been so obstinately coltish, that, glysters having proved

ineffectual, surgical assistance had been required to rid the rectum of the indurated faeces. No other part of the body was dropsical; nor had he ever been attacked with any other disorder, till the autumn of 1783, when he was seized with a remitting fever. He appeared to enjoy perfect health in every other respect; and has frequently expressed a desire of being married. His senses are not much impaired, excepting his eye-sight, which, though quite sufficient for other purposes, is not good enough to enable him to read; at least, this was the excuse his parents made for his never having been taught. Besides this weakness of his eyes, he has a habit of squinting, (which he contracted some time ago, by his desire of seeing those who stood behind his cradle), which made him look extremely ugly. His hearing is very nice, and his memory remarkably tenacious: nor are his mental qualities contemptible, though he is generally considered as an idiot, on account of his looking so very stupid. I have heard some of his bon mots, somewhat bordering upon wit. He is always in good spirits; and is very glad when people come to see him: but then his exertions to make himself agreeable, heighten his natural ugliness. His smiles are hideous; and his shrill voice
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the most disagreeable I ever heard.

His religion does not consist merely in a repetition of psalms, and other passages of the holy writings, of which he knows a great many by heart: but it gives him patience and resignation to the will of providence, so that he bears his misfortune, not only without murmuring, but with cheerfulness, and has an attachment to life, that raised my utmost astonishment.



To the Printer.

As the disorder treated of in the piece I now send you for publication, has of late prevailed in different parts of this country—and as I have for some years past experienced the efficacy of the method of cure prescribed by doctor Ogden, I imagine it would be well to make it more public.

On the Putrid Sore Throat.

BEING moved with compassion for the distressed condition of the people of Boston and Oxford, occasioned by the fatal effects of the malignant sore-throat distemper, I take the liberty to offer to the consideration of those gentlemen of the medical profession, who may not be well acquainted with the disorder, the following method of cure, which, by the blessing of God,

I have had the most happy experience of, for near twenty years past. I shall be as concise as the nature of the case will admit—referring the reader for the definition and diagnostic symptoms, to the several treatises written by doctors Fothergill, Douglass, and Huxham; and shall only deliver briefly my method of cure.

Alexipharmic and sudorific medicines have long and deservedly been in great esteem, as the basis of a radical cure of this disease: and, by writers upon the subject, have been universally recommended, particularly by the gentlemen above mentioned, whose labours deserve the highest commendation. But too often were those means found inadequate to overcome the malignancy of the disorder, as well as many others represented as real specifics. Without doubt it has been observed with grief, by others as well as myself, that notwithstanding the seasonable and plentiful use of those reputable specifics, the distemper generally proved fatal. Wherefore, in a time of great mortality, about twenty years ago, in and near this town, I tried the effects of mercury, joined with alexipharmics and astringents, by adding a considerable dose of mercurius dulcis to the Edinburgh or Venice treacle, which succeeded even beyond my expect-

expec-

expectations. But those treacles not fully answering my end, I substituted the following, which I have without much variation continued in the use of to this time:

Take of seneca rattle-snake root, two ounces; of Virginian snake-root, the roots of aromatic calamus and wild valerian, the tops of rue, and the flowers of English camomile, each one ounce; of cinnamon, myrrh, resin of guaiacum, British saffron, balsam capivi, prepared crabs' eyes, and Arminian bole, each half an ounce; of ginger and opium, each two drachms; of Madeira wine, enough to dissolve the opium; and of clarified honey, thrice the weight of all the powders.

Neither time nor room permit me to make any further remarks on the above treacle, than that I have abridged the quantity of opium ordered in the others, which I found too predominant in most cases, especially when given to children; and added to the seneca rattle-snake root, perhaps the most powerful antiseptic vegetable in the whole materia medica, manifested, to mention no more, by its almost immediate cure of the bite of the rattle-snake.

The doses, which I have generally given and would recommend, are, to a child of a year old, fifteen grains of the above treacle, and two or three

grains of the mercurius dulcis; to one of six or eight years, half a drachm or two scruples of the treacle, and four or five grains of the mercury; to a grown person, a drachm and a half or two drachms of the treacle, and six or eight grains of the mercury, repeated every twelve, sixteen, or twenty four hours, as the urgency of the symptoms may indicate. And in case the symptoms are very threatening, or the patient should have been ill several days, without proper means having been administered, an intermediate pill of the mercury may be given occasionally, thus continuing until the sloughs are entirely separated from the tonsils, &c. drinking strong sage tea, acidulated with vinegar, for common drink, observing to keep the patient warm, by avoiding the cold air, drink, &c. not only until the disorder seems entirely to be subdued, but a considerable time after, lest a sudden and often a fatal relapse should succeed. The mercury seldom purges after the first or second dose. If a bolus should be disagreeable to the patient, the treacle may be dissolved in wine and water, or sage tea, and the mercury be given in a pill.

The above medicines will generally remove the disorder in two or three days, if given in the beginning. Often two or three doses prove sufficient: but

but when the symptoms are obstinate, I recommend the use of the boluses, until the venom of the distemper appears to be entirely extinguished. I have more than once proceeded to the twelfth dose, besides four or five pills of the mercury per se, containing four or five grains each. To a girl of nine years of age, I gave sixty two grains of the mercury, in conjunction with treacle, in about twelve or fourteen days. She happily recovered, although she had the *hoarse cough* several days during her illness.

When exanthemata, or eruptions, appear, the doses may be diminished, repeated at least twice in twenty-four hours.

Ulcers behind the ears, in the groin, or in any other part, discharging a thin corroding ichor, I advise by no means to be suppressed, especially by red precipitate, or any topical application, that has a power of constipating the efflux: for it is almost certain that a retrocession of the virus will speedily have fatal effects. But cataplasms of onions boiled in milk, thickened with the crumb of white bread, adding a few grains of British saffron, may be applied with benefit, and renewed three or four times a day, until the acrimony of the juices is corrected by internal medicines: and

the ulcer will in time cicatrize spontaneously.

When the solids are uncommonly relaxed, and a seeming dissolution of the fluids, attended with thin watry sweats or hemorrhages, I recommend the plentiful use of the Peruvian bark, with the spirit or elixir of vitriol. The bark will also prove very beneficial, where the fever intermits: but when the fever is continual, runs high, and the pulse full, especially if attended with a difficult or laborious respiration, I never found any advantage gained by the bark.

I am not unacquainted with the surmises of some, that since the known genus of the disorder, destroys the crasis, or texture of the blood, so as often to produce fatal hemorrhages, such quantities of an active mercurial preparation, as I here recommend, would increase the danger. But long experience has taught me the contrary. For the sooner the dissolving acrimony in the blood is mitigated, the less may the danger of hemorrhages be apprehended.

Notwithstanding the incredible quantity of mercury a person may take in this disorder, when obstinate, without any apparent indications of a ptyelismus, more than what is commonly a concomitant indication of the disorder itself; yet when the case has been rather

ther favourable, the effects of the mercury will sometimes appear, by causing the gums, especially of the *molars*, to tumify, attended with a white or yellowish slough on the inside of the cheeks; the * cheeks and *fauces* being also tumified externally.

However, these effects always prognosticate a favourable issue; therefore I never suppress the activity of the mercury suddenly, but check it by the most gentle means, such as the flour of sulphur in small doses with manna, but recommend no other purgatives.

* I have been the more particular here, lest those who are not much conversant with the disorder, might mistake the effects of the medicine for the disease.

When the fever runs high, I generally give less of the treacle, or neglect it wholly, and give a pill of mercury every evening and morning till the fever has moderated, then the treacle may be given as above directed. I have frequently known two or three pills in the beginning, with the assistance of no other medicine but sage tea, or the infusion of the *contrayerva*, to give entire relief.

I have now finished what I conceived necessary to write upon this subject; if any gentleman of the medical profession desires any further explanations relative thereto, I shall always be ready to give him all the satisfaction in my power.

JACOB OGDEN.

Jamaica, Long-Island,
Oct. 28, 1769.

SATIRE AND HUMOUR.

* * A long and malignant contest, in the Philadelphia papers, of too personal a nature to be generally interesting, and carried to a most unreasonable length, occasioned the following publication, which was successful in putting an immediate end to the altercation.

On the Establishment of a high Court of Honour.

By the Hon. F. H. Esquire.

HAVING observed with real concern, that our

newspapers have, for a long time past, been filled with private contest and calumny, to the great abuse of the liberty of the press, and dishonour of the city---I, who have ever been ambitious of devising something for the public good, never before devised or thought of by any schemer whatever, set my wits to work, to remedy this growing evil, and to restore our gazettes, advertisements, journals, and packets, to their original design, viz. to make them the vehicles
G of

of intelligence, not the common sewers of scandal.

To convince you that I am not altogether unqualified for this purpose, you must know that I have had a tolerable education in the charity-school of our university. My parents being poor, bound me to a scrivener. My master soon discovered in me an aptitude for business: and, as I wrote a good hand, took me from the menial labours of the kitchen, to assist him in his office, where I engrossed deeds, leases, wills, &c. and in a short time was able to do the chief part of his business for him. When I was free from the scrivener, I set up for myself, and became clerk to several successive mayors, aldermen, and justices of the peace: and to my honour be it spoken, my employers frequently applied to my judgment in different cases: and I venture to say, but with all due deference, that my advice contributed not a little to support their worthships' official reputation.

But to proceed to my project, which, after much labour and study, I have completed, and now offer to the public, without any prospect of reward, further than the reputation of being the author of so ingenious and salutary a scheme.

Let there be a new court of justice established, under the name and stile of the "high

court of honour," to consist of twelve impartial and judicious men, annually elected by the freemen of the state: in which election all persons of what degree or quality soever (slaves excepted) shall be entitled to a vote; strangers also excepted, who have not resided one year in the city or county where they would vote. The court, when met, to choose one of their body for president, and to appoint some suitable person to serve them as clerk. This court shall have jurisdiction in all matters of controversy between man and man, of what kind soever they be, provided no property real or personal, comes in question so as to be affected by the judgment. It shall determine on differences in opinion, points of honour, of ceremony, rank, and precedence; in all cases of affronts, slights, abuse, scandal, slander, and calumny; and in all matters of contest—except as before excepted. Nine judges shall make a quorum: and a majority of voices shall determine their judgment. From their decision there shall be no appeal. The clerk shall keep a large bound book, to be called the *rascal's record*, in which shall be fairly entered, in alphabetical order, the names, occupations, and places of residence, of those on whom the judgment of the court shall fall; which book shall at all times be open

to inspection, on paying to the clerk six-pence for the search, and one shilling for a certified extract. And if, after the establishment of this court, any person or persons shall presume to decide any point of honour, contest, or squabble, by duel, or by appeal to the public, in any newspaper, hand-bill, or pamphlet, such offence shall be deemed a contempt of the high court of honour: and the party or parties so offending, shall be rendered infamous, by having their names inserted in the *rascal's record*.

And the form or process of the court shall be as follows: If any man hath cause of offence against another, he shall apply to the clerk of the court for a *declaration*. These *declarations* shall be fairly printed on good paper, with suitable blanks for the names of the parties, dates, &c.: and the party applying shall pay eighteen pence for the blank, and six-pence for filling it up, attesting it, and entering the action on his docket: and the party shall sign the said declaration with his own hand: after which the clerk shall number and file the declaration. On notice from the clerk, that such a declaration has been filed, the judges shall meet, and agree upon a time and place for the hearing, to which the accusers and the accused shall be summoned to attend,

with their respective witnesses. No council shall be admitted in this court, but the parties shall personally plead their own causes. After the hearing, the court shall give their final sentence. If judgment goes against the *accusee*, his name, &c. shall be entered on the *rascal's record*, with a number, in a column for the purpose, referring to the number of the declaration filed. But if the accuser shall fail to make good his charge, or charges, against the *accusee*, then his name shall be entered, as aforesaid, in the *rascal's record*, in place of that of the *accusee*. And thus shall all controversies be determined, where property is not concerned.

And the form of the declaration shall be as follows, viz.

Know all men by these presents, that I, A. B. of the city of Philadelphia, -----, do announce, pronounce, attest, publish, and declare, that my friend and fellow-citizen, C. D. is a rogue, a rascal, a villain, a thief, and a scoundrel; that he is a murderer, a robber, a plunderer, a highwayman, a footpad, and a cheat; that he has committed sacrilege, blasphemy, fornication, adultery, rape, sodomy, and bestiality; that he is a tory, a traitor, a conspirator, and a rebel; that he is a forestaller, a regrator, a monopolizer, a speculator, and a depreciator; that he is a backbiter, a slanderer,

derer, a calumniator, and a liar; that he is a mean, dirty, stinking, snivelling, sneaking, pimping, pocket-picking, d---d son of a bitch. And I do further declare, that all and every of the above appellations are intended, and ought to be understood in *the most opprobrious sense of the words*.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand at Philadelphia, this day of
in the year

Now *the condition of the above declaration is such*, that if the aforesaid, A. B. the accuser, shall and do well and truly support, maintain, and fully prove, before the high court of honour, any one or more of the aforesaid charges against his friend and fellow-citizen, the said C. D. *accusee* as aforesaid, then the said A. B. to be saved harmless, and remain justified in his procedure. But and if the said A. B. shall fail to make proof, as aforesaid, then he, the said A. B. doth submit, admit, and permit, that his name, that is to say, the name of him, the said A. B. accuser as aforesaid, shall be entered in the book of record of the said honourable court, called the *rascal's record*, there to be and remain from generation to generation, world without end. Amen.

Signed, and attested the day and year aforesaid."

Such, mr. Printer, are the outlines of my scheme, which, I acknowledge, may admit of considerable improvement. It would ill become me to expatiate on the many and great advantages that must accrue to my country from such an establishment. How much bloodshed, how much inkshed, would be spared! How many difficult points of honour and ceremony would be judicially determined! How many private animosities would be checked in the first stage, and brought to an issue, before the blood became heated by argument and altercation! These points of panegyric I leave to the judicious pens that will doubtless be employed in dissertations on the rights, limits, and advantages of the high court of honour.

I cannot, however, forbear pointing out one benefit that will arise from my scheme: which is, that when a person finds himself so disposed, he may abuse and vilify his friend and neighbour at a very reasonable expence, viz. the small sum of two shillings: whereas it now costs the Lord knows what, to get a column or two of scandal in a newspaper. But modesty forbids my saying any thing more on this subject.

CALAMUS.

December 1780.

* * A

* * A more recent paper-war than that alluded to in the introduction to the preceding letter, gave occasion to the writer once more to aim the shafts of ridicule at the practice of filling up the columns of public papers with private abuse. He was equally successful in this as in the former case.

Some ambiguity may be prevented by informing the reader, that the *principals* in the recent contest, were Mr. H. M. a merchant, and W. L. esq. a gentleman of the law. Several *auxiliaries* came forward in the course of the warfare.

Plan for the Improvement of the Art of Paper War.

I Mentioned in a former essay, that my greatest ambition is to become famous by the invention of some ingenious or useful project, which shall be generally approved and adopted. At the same time, I communicated to the public a device, which, from its novelty and convenience, I thought could not fail of success. In vain, however, have I looked for that applause which I still think justly due to the fruit of genius, ripened by the labours of the understanding. The author and his contrivance are no more thought of.

I have, at different periods, publish'd many other devices of rare invention, which have all

found the same fate. Whether the fault lies with me, or the public, I will not presume to say. But as my love of fame is invincible, I shall go on projecting and contriving, in hopes some lucky hit may answer my purpose, and fulfil my desire. However, as I am now growing old in the business, experience and disappointments have taught me to be less sanguine in my expectations; and, like other authors, to depend more on a fortuitous possession of the public caprice, than on the intrinsic merits of my own performances.

My present design, which I offer with great modesty, respects an improvement in the art of printing, so as to make it expressive not only of an author's narrative, opinions, or arguments, but also of the peculiarities of his temper, and the vivacity of his feelings.

As I have a great deal of literary honesty, I am ready to acknowledge, that I took the hint from an ingenious work of a Mr. Steel, of London, who contrived and has published a scheme for noting down in certain musical characters, the risings, fallings, and various inflections of the human voice, in common conversation, or in public speaking: so that not only the matter of an oration, but even the manner of the orator, may be

be secured, and transmitted to posterity.

My contrivance has this advantage over his, that no new characters are necessary: those commonly used in printing are sufficient for my purpose. Besides, his project is only calculated to ascertain the fortes, pianos, and various slides of the voice in speaking: whereas mine is intended to designate the fortes and pianos of the temper in writing.

My system is founded in a practice which nature herself dictates, and which every one must have observed. I mean that of elevating the voice, in

proportion to the agitation of the mind, or earnestness of the speaker: thus a reprimand is given in a higher tone than admonition: and a person in a fright or passion, exerts his lungs according to the quantum of terror or rage with which he is affected. Now, I would have the degree of vociferation, such as pianissimo, piano, forte, fortissimo, with all the intermediate gradations, designated by the size of the letters which compose the emphatic words; and for this, the various species of types, from

Pearl

up to

Five
line
Pica

will afford an ample scale.

The

The ingenious authors of advertisements have, I confess, in some degree anticipated my device. We often see

Stop Thief! Stop Thief!

bawled out in

Double Pica Italics.

The name of a ship to be sold, or some choice article to be disposed of, in

Great Primer Roman.

And as a further enforcement of attention, I have seen the figure of a hand, with a crier's bell, in the act of ringing, advertising an auction of household furniture: every one striving to be heard in preference, by a superior magnitude of types. At present there are none roar in louder or blacker characters, than the printers themselves, for

R A G S.

There is no looking at the first page of the Daily Advertiser, without imagining a number of people hallowing and bawling to you to buy their goods or lands, to charter their ships, or to let you know that a servant or horse hath strayed away. For my part, I am so possessed with this idea, that as soon as I take up the paper of the day, I turn over to articles of intelligence, as quick as possible, lest my eyes should be stunned with the ocular uproar of the first page: for I am a peaceable man, and hate nothing more than the confused noise of a mob.

My project, then, consists in this, that the printer, in composing any work, should adapt the size of his types to the spirit of the author, so that a reader may become in a degree personally acquainted with a writer whilst he is perusing his work. Thus, an author of cool and equable spirits might take

Brevier Roman,

for his medium, and would probably never rise higher than

Great Primer;

whilst

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whilst a passionate man, engaged in a warm controversy,
would thunder vengeance in

French Canon

It follows of course, that writers of great irascibility should be charged higher for a work of the same length, than meek authors; on account of the extraordinary space their performances must necessarily occupy; for these gigantic, wrathful types, like ranters on the stage, must have sufficient elbow-room.

For example: Suppose a newspaper quarrel to happen between * M and L. M begins the attack pretty smartly in

Long Primer.

L replies in

Pica Roman.

M advances to

Great Primer.

L retorts in

Double Pica.

And so the contest swells to

Rascal, Villain

* Lest some ill-disposed person should misapply these initials, I think proper to declare, that M signifies Merchant, and L Lawyer.

Coward,

Cow- ard,

in five line Pica ; which, indeed, is as far as the art of printing, or a modern quarrel can well go.

A philosophical reason might be given to prove that large types will more forcibly affect the optic nerve than those of a smaller size, and are therefore naturally expressive of energy and vigour. But I leave this discussion for the amusement of the gentlemen lately elected into our philosophical society. It is sufficient for me, if my system should be found to be justified by experience and fact, to which I appeal.

I recollect a case in point. Some few years before the war, the people of a western county, known by the name of Paxton Boys, assembled, on account of some discontent, in great numbers, and came down with hostile intentions against the peace of government, and with a particular view to some leading men in the city. Sir John St. Clair, who assumed military command for defence of the city, met one of the obnoxious persons in the street, and told him that he had seen the manifesto of the insurgents, and that his name was particularised in letters as long as his fingers. The gentleman immediately packed up his most valuable effects, and sent them with his family into Jersey for security. Had sir John only said that he had seen his name in the manifesto, it is probable that he would not have been so seriously alarmed : but the unusual size of the letters was to him a plain indication, that the insurgents were determined to carry their revenge to a proportionable extremity.

I could confirm my system by innumerable instances in fact and practice. The title-page of every book is a proof in point. It announces the subject treated of, in conspicuous characters ; as if the author stood at the door of his edifice, calling

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calling to every one to enter in, and partake of the entertainment he has prepared : and some even scream out their invitation in red letters. The journeymen printers have also a custom founded on the same principles. They distinguish every sheet in printing by a letter of the alphabet, which may be seen at the bottom of the first page of the sheet. When they have proceeded in this alphabetical numeration as far as the letter O, they are sure to send the author a proof-sheet with an

O

as big as a dollar, to express that the fatigue and labour they have gone through, are so great as to make them cry aloud for some gratuitous refreshment.

It was reserved for me to improve these hints into a system of general utility. It is, indeed, high time that such a system should be formed : for what, alas ! are a few **CAPITALS** and *Italics* in the hands of a vigorous author ? and yet these are the only typographical emphatics hitherto in use. In personal altercation, nature has furnished ample means of expression. The muscles of the face, the motion of the eyes, the action of the body, the limbs, and even the hands and fingers, all unite in making manifest the feelings of the soul. Let art do the best she can, in cases where these natural signs of sentiment cannot be exhibited.

It is truly lamentable, and has given me much concern, to observe with what languor a late religious dispute, and also a law controversy have been conducted ; not for want of a proper spirit in the combatants, but merely for want of a sufficient vehicle for resentment and rage.

For these reasons, I have no doubt but that my scheme of improvement in the art of printing will prove very acceptable to gentlemen disputants, and no less so to the gentlemen printers : as the one will find a new and comprehensive field opened for the exhibition of their refined sentiments, exquisite
sensibilities,

sensibilities, and energy of thought : and the other derive no small emolument from the advanced prices which they may reasonably charge for printing the controversial essays, and vigorous effusions of men of spirit and polite education.

I am, I confess, so highly pleased with my project, that I heartily wish some quarrel may soon take place, and swell even as high as

Five line Pica

that the utility of my discovery may be fully manifested. Just as Mr. — of the Humane Society, anxiously waited, and, as I believe, secretly wished, that an accident might happen, to evince the efficacy of a grappel he had contrived, for discovering and drawing up drowned bodies.

Lest, however, such a quarrel should not speedily occur,

I do hereby give notice,

(in Great Primer, No. 1.) that having nothing else to do, and having no wife or child to lament the consequences of my folly, I propose to take up any gentleman's discontent, animosity, or affront, and to carry the same, in a public contest with his adversary, as far as

Double Pica,

or

or even

French Canon

but not farther, without the special leave of the original proprietor of the quarrel. Provided, however, that the dispute originated in

Bourgeois Roman :

for if it originated only in

PEARL

Non Pareil

OR

Maison

I shall hardly think it worth my notice. To shew that I am in earnest in this offer, I shall leave my address with the printer of this essay, that any gentleman quarreller may readily find a champion for the cause which he does not choose to championize himself.

I anxiously wait the issue of this my proposed scheme, not without some secret hopes, that it may prove a lucky hit, and procure me that public renown and popular favour, which I have so long in vain laboured to acquire.

Philadelphia, July 31, 1786.

PROJECTOR.

On Trifles.

THE tempers of some men are so ungovernable, that the very shadow of opposition to any of their humours proves as fatal as the reality. Some men are of so selfish a disposition, that they murmur and fret if they are but looked at. Draco is a man of sense, as times go; that is, he has amassed a fortune, pays his debts, entertains his friends elegantly, keeps the best company, and does not rail at religion. But nothing can exceed the violence of his passion, if the punch water has not boiled; if his barber be not as true to his

hour as the dial is to the sun; or if his silk breeches are not folded up in a particular manner before they are deposited in the wardrobe. He once knocked his son down because he cut the loaf awry, and his daughter having cut the cheese obliquely, had reason to repent of her imprudence for a fortnight thereafter. The absence of a pair of boots, or of a great coat from their usual places, is a crime he never forgives. Perhaps a discovery even of his wife's infidelity, could not have irritated him more than he appeared to be one night, when she snuffed out the candle by accident. How far such circumstances

circumstances ought to affect the passions, may be considered afterwards; mean time, by way of *data* from which we may reason, I shall give the following list of a few cases which are recent in my memory, and which every day's experience enables me to increase. My reader may laugh if he pleases, for perhaps the following are the only serious things at which he may innocently laugh.

Henry Humph, grocer, discovered one evening, that the plumb pudding (of which he had eat very heartily at dinner) was deficient in the article of suet. This may be thought an improper subject for the noble passion of rage: but men of little or no understanding, who are not acquainted with the sublime of causes, are very apt to waste their passions and affections on improper objects, such as plumb-pudding, or a lady of pleasure, while a man of taste and judgment would think both beneath his attention. In the present case, however, the noble passion which animates heroes in the field of glory, was employed for ten minutes in a fruitless contest, relative to the want of suet in a pudding, an accident which the learned and ingenious dr. Arbuthnot has not mentioned, in his *dissertation on dumplings*, as at all likely to happen.

Sarah Nicely, wife to the said Henry Humph, complained that his stock-buckle was awry. This would not, in the opinion of most men, be a matter of the first importance: yet he denied, adding that it was strait in the middle: nor was this of much importance; and yet she replied with a degree of warmth, not uncommon in the advanced state of matrimony, and there ensued a sullen silence for the space of half an hour. If this be not thought *carrying matters too far*, I give up all knowledge of right and wrong.

Geoffroy Ennui, retired from business, and of course greatly fatigued with that hardest of all labours, idleness, engaged in a very obstinate quarrel with his wife, because he found a hair in the bottom crust of a Christmas pye. In the days of philosophy, or famine, this would have been overlooked: but times are altered. The mistakes of cookery often now take place of the doctrines of christianity. Geoffroy's wife complained that he was always finding fault, and said in almost direct terms, that he might send his dogs after the *hare*, which was a silly pun. The husband, who ought rather to have borne with his wife's infirmities, wished her and her bottom crust at the devil. Short and pert answers continued for two hours.

Hezekiah Homespun, confined

ned to bed with the rheumatism, wished to get the key of mrs. Homespun's pantry into his own hands, for fear of thieves. She refused it, alleging, that she could watch the servants. He was doubtful whether she did not need watching herself; a fresh dispute every three hours; the key of the pantry stuck in his throat. The time has been, reader, when the key of a pantry would not have bred family dissensions. But plodding cits, now-a-days, watch over every thing, except their consciences.

Jack Peevish, a man of no profession, as he had a fortune, married for love, as he thought, and as his wife thought; yet it came to pass, that in the third month of their marriage, he wanted a *muffin* for breakfast; the muffin appeared; but, as ill luck would have it, was toasted only on one side. He told his spouse, that she did nothing to please him—a strange inference from the doughy side of a piece of bread! She answered not—He proceeded—She proposed a toast; a toast came—He swore it was hard and dry, and without butter, and with butter, and had an hundred faults beside. She thought herself ill treated, and threatened she never would butter a toast for him while she lived—What was the consequence? Separate beds for two nights. What a deplorable cir-

cumstance, that a man who marries for love, should have so little command of temper as to be irritated by a muffin, and made miserable by a toast!

Toby Dolittle, a man of a considerable fortune, but of greater appetite, happened one day to dine on veal, and complained that it was *tough*. His wife, rather hastily perhaps, said he was mistaken. He replied in a heat, for he would forego his belief in the thirty nine articles, and the apostles' creed into the bargain, rather than be thought ignorant of a good joint. She made answer he did not know *tough* from *tender*. This was enough. He never gave up points of *such importance*, and did not dine or sleep at home for a week thereafter.

Mr. Sulky found the leaf of one of his books doubled down—it was done by his wife. Not a word passed at dinner. She knew not the cause of his anger, but it was an invariable maxim with him, that the wife who did any thing besides brushing his clothes, superintending the kitchen, and bearing children, acted a very unbecoming part.

The rev. mr. Guttle, when about to empty a bottle, could not find the cork/screw the servant had misplaced; mr. Guttle would rather he had misplaced the whole body of divinity—High words on negligence, as it was the duty of a wife

a wife to scold the servants. The affair might have ended amicably, but for want of wine biscuits—The worthy ecclesiastic lost the patience of Job and the meekness of Moses; but before morning these virtues returned with the screw that was missing. How shameful was such conduct in a clergyman! Without meekness a man cannot be a christian—What a pity he should be a clergyman!

Mrs. Punctual once forgot to secure her *window shutters* when it began to grow dark. The husband foamed with rage, for he feared nothing mortal or immortal, except thieves. The wife replied mildly, but her mildness was unavailing. He declared, with a very vulgar oath, which shewed what company he had kept, that her window shutters ought never to be open a moment after the candle was brought in. O reader, what weak mortals are we! How are we tossed to and fro by every trifle, and how much easier it is for a man to govern an island of slaves for a year than his own temper for one minute!

Mrs. Barren, a young married lady, who had ten thousand pounds, the hysterics, and a fondness for dogs and cats, found that her favourite *lap-dog* had not got his breakfast. The husband thought it not worth minding; she answered "that her husband would

break her heart, so he would, by his barbarous usage of poor Pompey." He uttered something, of which the words *break* and *neck* only were audible: but whose neck he meant, I could not learn; this was followed by pouting and altercation until dinner.

Mr. Tiffany had long cogitated concerning the choice of a pair of buckles for his spouse. He at length determined that they should be of gold-coloured metal: but the wife, after a variety of topics, by way of argument, insisted, as the natural consequence of what she had said, that the buckles should be silver. Now as she had, in some measure, a sort of casting vote in all matrimonial disputes, the husband was obliged to yield: but the argument was renewed every time he looked towards his wife's feet. About the same important affair, there were at last so many disputes, that disputing became a habit, and matrimonial comfort a stranger. One day a knuckle of veal was done to rags, and at night the tobacco was too dry. These points were most obstinately contended, and followed by that kind of conviction, to which Butler alluded, when he wrote the oft-quoted couplet—

*He that's convinc'd against
his will,
Is of the same opinion still.*

Peter

Peter Bumper, a man whose happiness centered in drink, and who preferred hot punch to all earthly enjoyments, rose at midnight to cool his thirst at the *water-bottle*. To his astonishment and disappointment it was empty—Here ensued a volley of oaths and execrations! The poor wife was obliged to bear all—By the bye, reader, I have often observed, and I cannot account for it, that a drunken husband (although the greatest beast in nature) has generally more command over his wife, than a sober husband of equal merit in other respects—But this is a digression. *Mr. Bumper* continued silent after his fit of cursing was over, until breakfast, when he renewed his expostulations, and gave it as his firm opinion, that no woman who had a regard for her husband, would ever leave a water bottle empty. I have scarcely patience to proceed in this enumeration of family quarrels, but however ridiculous they are, I shall add another, that my meaning may be fully understood, when I say, that there are certain trifles which are at all times to be overlooked, and that when we do not overlook them, we become habitually peevish, selfish, and irrational.

Mr. Staytape and his wife were engaged to dine abroad. The nearest way was a question to be agitated previous to setting out. The wife would

go one way; —the husband another. She said he might have his own way; he said the woman had more of her own way than he. “But I tell you, that is the nearest.” “I say it is not; adz figs! don’t I know more of the way than you; —” “I wish all obstinate husbands were in Jericho.” —“And it would be better if all obstinate wives were at Greenland.” Here the matter seemed to end; they hired separate chairs; but renewed the argument as soon as the company had sat down to dinner. At night they returned home in one chair; the wife kept muttering concerning the streets; the husband hummed three-fourths of a sailor’s song. Profound silence all next day—until dinner, when a leg of pork and pease pudding threw the whole family into an uproar. The leg and pudding war lasted for three days, to the great advantage of the younger part of the family, who would doubtless profit much by an example of conjugal felicity so amiable, so engaging, and so praise-worthy.

Destructive as such trifles are to the peace of families, they are not to be imputed to the worst of causes, a bad heart, but rather to a weak head. Men of weak understanding, who have laid down a mechanical plan of regular life, in which every action has its particular hour and minute, beyond

beyond which it cannot be performed, are very apt to despise those who would break in upon their rules. They think that a crime which other men would let pass unobserved. A dry toast is with them a dreadful accident: and the fall of a milk pot is a revolution for ever to be remembered. Men, likewise, who have this peevishness and irritability of temper, are principally those who have found the smooth and easy current of life, who have met with no difficulties, or distresses, who are little acquainted with a state of entire dependence on one's own behaviour, and who have in general lived in ease and dullness. We rarely find similar tempers in men who have experienced the vicissitudes of life, who have been left friendless in the world, and who have been obliged to subdue the petulance of their tempers, and correct all selfish and unsocial propensities. Nor do we find such in men of real politeness, for politeness is the art of making all around us easy and happy; and a man, in any of the situations above mentioned, cannot do so more effectually, than by seeming to be easy and happy himself.

The real miseries of life are so many, the difficulties we meet with in the walks of busy life, in our family connections, in the untoward dispositions of children, the profligacy of

beloved relations and friends, the instances of ingratitude, of hardness of heart, of injustice, unrewarded merit, not to speak of the interest which it is not unnatural (although uncommon) to take in the affairs of the nation—all these happen to every one in so great proportions, that he is entirely without excuse who passes over such important events with indifference; and employs his passions and affections in trifles. And if a man escape the greater calamities of life, he is ungrateful to the author of his blessings, and to the world, if he is insensible to the happiness of his situation, and mindful only of absurd gratifications and indulgences, the least of which thousands of more worthy men are obliged to go without—Let a pampered epicure who enjoys a well-furnished table, an agreeable wife and friends, and every luxury which he can think of, and yet flies into unmannerly passions at such trifles as we have been speaking of; let him, I say, visit the humble cottage of one of his tenants, and compare the two families. He will then see, that he is unhappy by having too much, and that they are happy with the bare necessities of life. Never do we stand more in need of judgment and prudence, than when our fortunes enable us to enjoy more than is necessary; from that time commence all our miseries.

ries, and every deviation from the laws of integrity.

It may be said, that *men of sense* are above such trifles. Whether this be so or not, I cannot determine, because I never yet could meet with a definition of that equivocal character, a *man of sense*. We hear of men of great sense, men of good sense, men of common sense, and men who have every sense but common sense. To be fretful about trifles, however, appears to me to be a proof, that men have no title to be ranked as *men of any sense*, as it shews that they are destitute of reflection; and if a man can be a man of sense without reflection, he may at the same time be a man of virtue without integrity, and so his character may be a combination of different and disagreeing principles.

To me it seems clear, that a man of sense is one who has so strong ideas of right and wrong, and propriety in acting, that he rarely errs against reason--A man of sense is so at all times while he enjoys the use of reason; but this maxim ill agrees with those who are commonly called *men of sense*, and who think that a just conduct in one instance, permits them to act like fools in every other, as if sense was a property too valuable to be of general use. Hence we have a man of sense in the senate, and an absurd tyrant in his own

house; hence too we have men who in their counting-houses, give every proof of sense which commerce requires, yet when they come to their family and friends, seem very careful to conceal that they have any sense at all. Sterne was a man of sense--was he so at all times?--Do his life and writings show it? *Dorilus* is a man of sense in polite circles, and even in trade: but *Dorilus* gets drunk every second night, beats his wife, goes to the haunts of profligacy, and next day--is a man of sense again.--At another time, reader, we shall consider this term *man of sense*, and endeavour to reduce it to some rule.

To conclude, as a peevish man is a curse to himself, and to all about him, as a compliant temper, moderated by a due deference for our own opinion, is the surest proof of an excellent and improved understanding; let us be careful that nothing get the better of our tempers, which we cannot review without being ashamed. The temper is best corrected by a just estimate of human happiness and domestic quiet; by a knowledge of the frailties of our natures, and that the errors which do not proceed from ill nature or contempt, are too unimportant to injure the affections, or excite the passions of a reasonable creature.

MISCELLANIES.

Utility of inspecting into the State of Jails.

Mr. Printer,

AMONGST all the duties enjoined by religion, or by our feelings as men, few are more becoming or delightful, than those of visiting and comforting the prisoner—his situation in a gloomy captivity, where his voice often exerts itself in vain to be heard, is sufficiently afflicting to excite sympathy—and when we reflect, that honest virtue may sometimes, by poverty or misfortune, be led to take its abode in so desolate a mansion—it is surely worth while to inform ourselves, from time to time, who are its inhabitants, and to extend the aiding hand where we find it merited. This seems the more proper, as it is a branch of charity too generally neglected, lying more than any other out of the common walks of men, and being subject to doubt as to its utility; the humane having too often to lament that relief is not followed by a suitable amendment: but if on this account the tide of benevolence is to be checked, in which of her channels will she not be equally arrested? To be useful, a diligent search into characters is requisite—and that to be made

under the influence of an unfriendly atmosphere; on which account, the business is generally dispatched with trepidation and haste, and frequently inadequate to the views of the charitable visitor.

How important, therefore, appears the duty enjoined by the laws of the land, on a body of the most intelligent and approved citizens, twice a year officially to visit these dreary habitations—and as they are the grand inquest of the city and county in which they dwell, to enquire into the state of the jail and work house, the conduct of their keepers, and make report of the same to the proper officers—a duty so full of justice and mercy, none of our grand juries, it is hoped, will ever neglect: but as I am informed the late one, of the present term of Oyer and Terminer, have made noble exertions in this way, I beg leave to dedicate a small part of your publication to their praise, in hopes it may contain useful intelligence to others—and a proper encomium on themselves.

It is said, that on the first entry of the jury into the jail, they ordered all the felons to be ranged along the wall of their court yard, and enquired minutely into the case of every one.

one of them, taking such notes thereon, as appeared to be expedient. Among the number was found a man who had been committed for an offence, of which, in a few days afterwards, he was found innocent, and a discharge of course sent by the same magistrate who had committed him, that he might be set at liberty: yet was he still languishing in captivity, by reason of his inability to pay the sum of four shillings and six-pence, fees. This being paid for him, a miserable fellow creature was discharged from confinement, and an active man restored to usefulness, who, it seems, had been guilty of no offence, save that of an inadvertent insolence to his keeper, who for that cause (though otherwise benevolently disposed) would not remit his fees, but kept him in the manner described, till he should pay the *uttermost farthing*. The money paid for his release, was now by the jailor, humanely converted into bread, and presented to the remaining prisoners, as the price of their late associate's emancipation. Here the jury had to regret the numerous instances in which fees appeared a very principal cause of detention. What an improvement would it have been, if the legislature, among their late ameliorations of our penal laws, had provided fixed salaries for jailors, and not

left them to collect their support from the miserable wretches committed to their care! If they had also fixed a regular stipend for a clergyman to attend them, that, in the season of affliction, the voice of instruction might not be wanting to reclaim them! It must, however, be added, to the honour of the clergy of this city, that, notwithstanding their numerous avocations, they have, of late, added to them this charitable one, of performing divine service here occasionally: but a stated attendance would be more becoming the government, and probably prove more useful to the captives.

After having passed the review of the felons, the jury next proceeded to the debtors' apartment: and here were found many unhappy creatures, confined for insignificant debts, by the cruelty of hard-hearted creditors. Among these were five men and two women, making in all seven persons, whose collective debts amounted to not quite as many pounds. A circumstance so distressing induced the jury to sign an order on the county-treasurer for the whole amount of their wages, that these people might be discharged, with as many more as the sum would extend to: and a committee of their body was immediately appointed to carry their benevolent design into effect.

Their's

Their's was the joy of seeing what delighted angels of old--the prison gates yielding to their influence, and the wretched captive, unexpectedly restored to liberty and the common air, exulting in their sight. What a pity that while some defraud their neighbours of thousands, and come out triumphantly by an insolvent act, the miserable caitiff, who owes not forty shillings, is debarred the privilege!

"Drink deep, or taste not the *insolvent* spring," seems, in this respect, the motto of our laws: and what will those say, who for such sums commit the wretched to jail, when they shall hereafter ask of their Maker a free pardon for the debt they have contracted to him, while at present they have no bowels for such trespasses as these!

With some women in the jail were found their innocent though imprisoned children, from two to ten years of age. What can be expected from those whose infancy has passed in such a nursery as this?

The jury next proceeded to examine the state of the rooms, as to cleanliness; and in this respect, they were found unexceptionable: but the wintry blasts will soon scour and pervade them: and then what shall save the limbs of the prisoner from the inclement frost, unless the humane will, from

their abundance, hang a cloth between the wind and them?

The work-house was next visited--it was found clean, and but few inhabitants; yet was there found among them a melancholy female, with a beauteous child of her own sex, of about two years old: the possession of this little babe in an illegitimate way, before the expiration of her servitude, was the wretched mother's offence. Alas! was it not punishment enough, to have, friendless and alone, to work for its support? The few weeks she had yet to serve, were redeemed, and the mother and child discharged, with a small gratuity for present support--a recommendation to future employment, her character in other respects appearing irreproachable--and the advice given by our Saviour on an occasion somewhat similar, repeated, *Go, and sin no more.*

Thus did this respectable jury fulfil the duty with which they were charged by the commands of their country, as well as that with which they were entrusted by the more powerful voice of humanity and a pure benevolence. For what they have done beyond the usual routine prescribed by law, their own feelings are now regaling them---for what they have done within the pale of its sanctions, their country must thank them. I will only add

add a few lines from the works
of the sympathetic Thompson.

"May endless blessings wait this gen'rous
"band.

“band,

“ Who, touch'd with human woe, redref-
“ five search'd

“five search’d

"Into the horrors of the gloomy jail!"

"Unpitied and unheard, where mis'ry
"moans ;

“moans ;

“Where sickness pines; where thirst
“and hunger burn,

“and hunger burn,

"And poor misfortune feels the lash of
"vice."

“vice.”

Philadelphia, Sept. 1786.

On Tuesday, the eighth day of May, 1787, a number of gentlemen assembled, and agreed to associate themselves in a society, to be entitled, "The Philadelphia Society for alleviating the miseries of public prisons," when the following paper was read, and resolved upon to be the future constitution of this society, to wit:

**CONSTITUTION of the
PHILADELPHIA SOCI-
ETY for alleviating the mi-
series of public prisons.**

“I was in prison, and ye came unto me: and the king shall answer, and say unto them: Verily, I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

Matth. xxv. 36--40.

WHEN we consider that the obligations of benevolence, which are founded on the precepts and example

of the Author of christianity, are not cancelled by the follies or crimes of our fellow creatures--and, when we reflect upon the miseries which penury, hunger, cold, unnecessary severity, unwholesome apartments, and guilt, (the usual attendants of prisons) involve with them, it becomes us to extend our compassion to that part of mankind, who are the subjects of these miseries. By the aids of humanity, their undue and illegal sufferings may be prevented; the links, which should bind the whole family of mankind together under all circumstances, be preserved unbroken; and such degrees and modes of punishment may be discovered and suggested, as may, instead of continuing the habits of vice, become the means of restoring our fellow-creatures to virtue and happiness. From a conviction of the truth and obligation of these principles, the subscribers have associated themselves under the title of "The Philadelphia Society for alleviating the miseries of public prisons." For effecting these purposes, they have adopted the following constitution:

I. The officers of the society shall consist of a president, two vice-presidents, two secretaries, a treasurer, four physicians, an electing committee of twelve, and an acting committee of six members: all of whom, except the last mentioned

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tioned committee, shall be chosen annually, by ballot, on the second second-day, called Monday, in the month called January.

II. The president (and, in his absence, one of the vice-presidents) shall preside in all meetings, and subscribe all the public acts of the society. The president (or, in his absence, either of the vice-presidents) shall, moreover, have the power of calling a special meeting of the society, whenever he shall judge proper. A special meeting shall likewise be called, at any time, when six members of the society shall concur in requesting it.

III. The secretaries shall keep fair records of the proceedings of the society; and shall correspond with such persons and societies, as may be judged necessary to promote the views and objects of the institution.

IV. The treasurer shall keep all the monies and securities belonging to the society; and shall pay all orders signed by the president, or one of the vice-presidents: which orders shall be his vouchers for his expenditures. He shall, before he enters upon his office, give a bond of not less than two hundred pounds, for the faithful discharge of the duties of it.

V. The business of the physicians shall be to visit the pri-

sons, when called upon by, or to give advice to, the acting committee, respecting such matters as are connected with the preservation of the health of persons confined therein; or subject to the government of the officers of the prisons.

VI. The electing committee shall have the sole power of admitting new members. Two thirds of them shall be a quorum for this purpose: and the concurrence of a majority of them, by ballot, when met, shall be necessary for the admission of a member. No member shall be admitted, who has not been proposed at a general meeting of the society: nor shall an election for a member take place in less than one month after the time of his being proposed.

VII. The acting committee shall visit the public prisons, or such other places of confinement, or punishment, as are ordained by law, at least once every week. They shall enquire into the circumstances of the persons confined: they shall report such abuses, as they shall discover, to the officers of government who are authorised to redress them; and shall examine the influence of confinement or punishment upon the morals of the persons who are the subjects of them. They shall have a right, with the concurrence of the president, or one of the vice-

vice-presidents, to draw upon the treasurer for such sums of money as shall be necessary to carry on the business of their appointment. Four of them shall be a quorum. After the first election, two of their number shall be relieved from duty at each quarterly meeting : and two members shall be appointed to succeed them.

VIII. Every member, upon his admission, shall subscribe the constitution of the society, and contribute ten shillings, annually, in quarterly payments, towards defraying its contingent expences. If he neglect to pay the same for more than two years, he shall, upon due notice being given him of the delinquency, cease to be a member.

IX. The society shall meet on the second second-day, called Monday, in the months called January, April, July, and October, at such place as shall be agreed to by a majority of the society.

X. No law or regulation shall contradict any part of the constitution of the society : nor shall any law, or alteration in the constitution, be made without being proposed at a previous meeting. All questions shall be decided, where there is a division, by a majority of votes. In those cases, where the society is equally divided, the presiding officer shall have a casting vote.

The present officers of the society.

President.

William White.

Vice - Presidents.

Henry Helmuth.

Richard Wells.

Secretaries.

John Swanwick.

John Morris.

Treasurer.

Thomas Rodgers.

Physicians.

John Jones.

William Shippen.

Gerardus Clarkson.

Benjamin Rush.

Electing Committee.

Isaac Parish John Baker

Ch. Marshall Th. Harrison

Jon. Penrose James Reynolds

John Olden Joseph Moore

Jas. Whitehill Jac. Shoemaker

Laur. Sickle William Zane

Acting Committee.

Tench Coxe John Kaighn

Geo. Duffield B. Wynkoop

Wm. Rodgers George Krebs.

Observations recommendatory of the Philadelphia Society for alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons.

THERE is nothing which has a tendency more highly to dignify or adorn a nation, or which can better promote the ease, happiness, and comfort of a people, than the number and skilful direction of its public institutions, for necessary and charitable uses. Nothing has handed down

down to us, with so high a degree of lustre, the reputation of ancient Greece and Rome, as the monuments which remain of their public edifices; while all their other greatness has vanished like a dream, these still retain their sublimity; and, wherever they appear, are found worthy of a people---majestic, even in their ruins. As modern nations have advanced in knowledge, wealth, and power, the number of their institutions, for useful purposes, have been proportionably augmented: and the numerous spires which adorn their vast cities, seem every where to remind the approaching traveller of the majesty of the people whose capital he is about to visit. If such, then, be the progress of society, how happy must it make every patriotic bosom to see our own country advancing so fast, by similar establishments, to an equal degree of celebrity and fame! We, whose settlement on these shores is of so recent a date, every day behold new academies, hospitals, dispensaries, and public institutions of all kinds arise, at once accommodating the citizens, and ornamenting their metropolis. I can scarcely walk out, without discovering constantly improvements in the appearance of our city. Where a large, unhealthy jail and work-house exhibited their gloomy fronts,

we now see almost a square of elegant and handsome brick buildings. New market-houses, where necessary, are erected; new ferries opened; churches ornamented and repaired; and streets paved: nor is the attention confined to the living: even the burial-grounds of the dead become respected, and enclosed with elegantly-ornamented walls; their ashes protected with a neat, but becoming decency; and, from having been the pasture-grounds of all the herds in the vicinity, grave-yards are become the solemn haunts of meditation, and the silent walks of pensive recollection.

When we remember, that to those which have been already named, may be added various other societies, for charitable and literary purposes, and that almost all of them are created by voluntary subscriptions, gifts, and donations---we can never enough applaud the public spirit they exhibit, nor enough admire the people whose infancy appears so distinguished by whatever institutions have ornamented other nations, when comparatively arrived at their political zenith. But, among all of them, the new one, of which the constitution precedes this essay, appears to be one of the most valuable: I mean the society lately instituted, under the title of "the Philadelphia Society for alleviating the
K "miseries

“miseries of public prisons,” agents in opening the iron gate to the wretched captive, —a service on which these the objects of which, to use the expression of Mr. Burke, were formerly employed, and are, “to dive into the depths than which, none can be better adapted to an angelic mind. of dungeons; to survey the Their funds may also enable them to release, where proper mansions of sorrow and objects offer, prisoners confined for small debts; to clothe pain; to take the gage and the naked, in our dreary dimensions of misery, depression, and contempt; to winter months, and see that remember the forgotten; to proper air be not excluded in the summer. They will attend to the neglected; and have before their eyes, as “to visit the forsaken:” in their model, the great Mr. other words, by their attentive Howard, the friend of mankind, whose name has become zeal to prevent, as much as in them lies, the accumulation illustrious throughout Europe, of human sufferings, in their and is just rising in deserved most common receptacles. By estimation among us: in their repairing to the jail and workhouse, they will frequently hands his book, to assist them have it in their power to discover abuses, and to represent in the arduous undertaking, them to those who may have in their hearts a ray of the celestial flame by which he is it in their’s to redress them; animated, to inspire and invigorate their every pursuit— to assist and support virtue, they will come in aid of the merciful designs of their country, should it at any time be found struggling with oppression; in its late lenient mitigations of sanguinary punishments, and will probably lay the foundation of a charitable and to bring to the light of day many of the mysteries of those dark and secret recesses. system, whose utility and fame will spread and increase with the progress of society. They Should they discover an unfeeling creditor keeping, unnecessarily, his debtor in a hopeless confinement, perhaps by their influence they may direct their attention, also, to the preservation of procure him relief; or, if not, morals in these apartments. it may be in their power to retaliate on the hard-hearted They will, doubtless, remonstrate with a spirit becoming creditor the want of compassion he may have shewn, and freemen and christians, against so deter others from similar offences. Like guardian-angels the oppressions under which many of the poor prisoners hovering round these melancholy abodes, they may abate their horror, and often prove labour,

labour, from heavy and enormous fees. They will apply to the legislature for relief on this head; and intreat that the jailor be made a salary-officer, and not suffered, as at present, to sell liquor, or to demand any fees or money from them. In short, with a manly, but discreet zeal, they will find out every particular in which this forlorn class of mankind can be benefitted, and, as far as may be in their power, procure the wished-for assistance.

With respect to the members of the society, they consist of every denomination, and invite the assistance of all the charitable and humane, who may be disposed to join them, and who will be informed of the terms of admission, by the constitution now published, in which the names of the officers are printed, without the titles otherwise due to their various stations; for, as a worthy friend of mine once observed respecting members of fire companies, that they assumed not, in their lists, the designations otherwise belonging to them, because, at a fire, no such distinctions could be made, so in this instance of sufferings no less deplorable, nothing further need be said, respecting the members who come to their relief, but that they are *men*, engaged in the noblest office that can employ human nature, that of mitiga-

ting the miseries of their fellow creatures.

“O great design! if executed well,
 “With patient care, and wisdom temper’d zeal.
 “Ye sons of mercy! do not quit the search;
 “Drag forth the legal monsters into light,
 “Wrench from their hands oppression’s iron rod,
 “And bid the cruel feel the pains they give.
 “Much still untouch’d remains; in this rank age,
 “Much is the patriot’s weeding hand requir’d.
 “The toils of law, (what dark insidious men
 “Have cumb’rous added to perplex the truth,
 “And lengthen simple justice into trade)
 “How glorious were the day, that saw these broke,
 “And every man within the reach of right.”

It is not to be doubted but the fair sex will also, willingly, become patronesses of a design so amiable, and so suited to the tenderness and sensibility, which so justly characterise them. Their influence is extensive and irresistible. Let it then be engaged in the cause of human nature, and of virtue. In short, it is not to be doubted, but in a society so usefully formed, for a purpose so amiable, and whose annual demands will be so small, there will be a general desire to participate. I already think I see the roll inscribed with whatever names are elevated or dignified among us, anxious, amid their other and more perishing honours, to mingle those laurels, which, being like the civic one at Rome,

Rome, only obtainable by saving the lives of men, will be more likely than any other to blossom and to flourish through every revolution of the world, and of time.



Constitution of the Pennsylvania Society for promoting the Abolition of Slavery, and the Relief of Free Negroes, unlawfully held in Bondage. Begun in the Year 1774, and enlarged on the 23d of April, 1787.

“All things whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so unto them : for this is the law and the prophets.”

Matt. vii. 12.

IT having pleased the Creator of the world, to make of one flesh, all the children of men—it becomes them to consult and promote each other's happiness, as members of the same family, however diversified they may be, by colour, situation, religion or different states of society. It is more especially the duty of those persons, who profess to maintain for themselves the rights of human nature, and who acknowledge the obligations of christianity, to use such means as are in their power, to extend the blessings of freedom to every part of the

human race ; and in a more particular manner, to such of their fellow-creatures, as are entitled to freedom by the laws and constitutions of any of the united states, and who, notwithstanding, are detained in bondage, by fraud or violence. From a full conviction of the truth and obligation of these principles---from a desire to diffuse them, wherever the miseries and vices of slavery exist, and in humble confidence of the favour and support of the Father of mankind, the subscribers have associated themselves under the title of the “Pennsylvania society for promoting the abolition of the slavery, and the relief of free negroes, unlawfully held in bondage.”

For effecting these purposes, they have adopted the following constitution :

I. The officers of the society shall consist of a president, two vice-presidents, two secretaries, a treasurer, four counsellors, an electing committee of twelve, and an acting committee of six members ; all of whom, except the last named committee, shall be chosen annually by ballot, on the first second-day called Monday, in the month called January.

II. The president (and, in his absence, one of the vice-presidents) shall preside in all the meetings, and subscribe all the public acts of the society. The president (or, in his absence, either of the vice-presidents)

dents) shall, moreover, have the power of calling a special meeting of the society whenever he shall judge proper. A special meeting shall likewise be called at any time, when six members of the society shall concur in requesting it.

III. The secretaries shall keep fair records of the proceedings of the society, and shall correspond with such persons and societies, as may be judged necessary to promote the views and objects of the institution.

IV. The treasurer shall keep all the monies and securities belonging to the society; and shall pay all orders signed by the president or one of the vice-presidents: which orders shall be his vouchers for his expenditures. He shall, before he enters upon his office, give a bond of not less than two hundred pounds for the faithful discharge of the duties of it.

V. The business of the counsellors shall be, to explain the laws and constitutions of the states, which relate to the emancipation of slaves, and to urge their claims to freedom, when legal, before such persons or courts, as are authorised to decide upon them.

VI. The electing committee shall have the sole power of admitting new members. Two thirds of them shall be a quorum for this purpose: and the concurrence of a majority of

them, by ballot, when met, shall be necessary for the admission of a member. No member shall be admitted, who has not been proposed at a general meeting of the society; nor shall an election for a member take place in less than one month after the time of his being proposed. Foreigners, or persons who do not reside within the state, may be elected corresponding members of the society, without being subject to any annual payment; and shall be admitted to the meetings of the society, during their residence in the state,

VII. The acting committee shall transact such business as shall occur, in the recess of the society, and report the same at each quarterly meeting. They shall have a right, with the concurrence of the president or one of the vice-presidents, to draw upon the treasurer, for such sums of money as shall be necessary to carry on the business of their appointment. Four of them shall be a quorum. After their first election, two of their number shall be relieved from duty at each quarterly meeting: and two members shall be appointed to succeed them.

VIII. Every member, upon his admission, shall subscribe the constitution of the society, and contribute ten shillings annually in quarterly payments, towards defraying

its

its contingent expences. If he neglects to pay the same for more than two years, he shall, upon due notice being given him of his delinquency, cease to be a member.

IX. The society shall meet on the first second-day called Monday, in the months called January, April, July and October, at such place as shall be agreed to by a majority of the society.

X. No person holding a slave shall be admitted a member of the society.

XI. No law or regulation shall contradict any part of the constitution of the society, nor shall any law or alteration in the constitution be made, without being proposed at a previous meeting. All questions shall be decided, where there is a division, by a majority of votes. In those cases where the society is equally divided, the presiding officer shall have a casting vote.

The present officers of the Society.

President :

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

Vice-Presidents :

James Pemberton,
Jonathan Penrose.

Secretaries :

Benjamin Rush, Tench Coxe.

Treasurer :

James Starr.

Counsellors :

William Lewis, John D. Coxe.
Miers Fisher, William Rawle.

Electing Committee :

Th. Harrison Norris Jones
Nathan Boys Sam. Richards
Jas. Whitehill Francis Bailey
James Read Andrew Carlson
John Todd John Warner
Th. Armatt Jac. Shoemaker

Acting Committee.

Th. Shields, William Zane
Th Parker John Warner
John Oldden W. M'Elhenney



Further Account of Jemimah Wilkinson.

(Concluded from our last).

THE gentleman says " he can see no proof adduced against these people but hearsay, for all they have mentioned," and asks this question, " Is hearsay sufficient to ground a charge of heresy upon ?" I say no. And further, " the writers have not been upright in all they have related respecting the universal friend (so called), and therefore have reason to doubt of their sincerity, as their's is in general but hearsay." In answer to the above, let me tell this gentleman, that when I am prosecuted for slander (which I well deserve if he be right), I will then bring him for an evidence in my favour, for a part at least, of what I have asserted ; for, if I guess rightly, he was present with Jemimah and divers of her followers and others, when they were asked what her name was, and

and if it was not Jemimah Wilkinson ? and when they declared her name was not Jemimah Wilkinson, but that it was the Universal Friend, that she had no other name, nor ever had any other ; and if I guess right, this same gentleman was present also, when David Waggoner declared there was no such person as Jemimah Wilkinson, and when he was called upon to explain himself, he did it in nearly the following words : " There are two men, for instance (naming two who stood together) they each of them live in a house, and while they live in the house, the house is called by their name ; but if either of them leaves the house, and another person removes into it, it is not then proper to call the house by its first name, but by that of the person who removed into it. "

Whether what is above advanced, tho' true, can properly be called proof, is, I confess not clear ; perhaps, strictly and properly speaking, nothing can be so, but the accuser and accused being brought face to face, and evidences brought before them, and the facts appearing plain to indifferent and impartial persons ; but did this gentleman expect all this ceremony absolutely necessary on so singular a subject, previous to any person publishing what they were assured in their own minds was true ? and does

he think it decent, to call me a liar, a slanderer, and the author of invective, because I did not proceed to do that which I had not the least idea was necessary ? As to the facts above mentioned, they came within my own knowledge ; and the following one I have from a gentlewoman of unquestionable reputation, and one to whom Jemimah explained the whole secret of her profane and impious supposed incarnation. She told this lady, there was once such a person as Jemimah Wilkinson, but she died ; and, speaking of her imagined divinity, said that the person then speaking to this lady, interceded with the Father for the space of two hours, that the soul of Jemimah Wilkinson might be admitted into heaven, and that her soul was admitted into heaven accordingly, after which the divine spirit, or Son of God (meaning the person then speaking to this lady) re-animated the body which the soul of Jemimah Wilkinson had left, and it arose from the dead.

I doubt not but the above will be sufficient to satisfy the unprejudiced, that in my first publication I have not abused Jemimah : and what follows will I expect also be sufficient to shew that Parker and Sarah Richards have no reason to complain. Parker, in a letter to a very amiable young woman in this city, expresses himself

as follows: "My dear-----, I received thy letter and read it with good satisfaction, although absent in body, am willing to be present with thee in spirit so long as thou continues in well doing, before *the Lords two witnesses will due all in their power for thy good and the good of every soul so long as they have power to prophesie*, and there was some did well and was *excepted* of the Lord who dwelt even where Satan's seat was." And further, in the same letter he says, "And dear-----due watch and pray that thou mayest be kept in the hours of tryal, which is coming upon all people to try them, read Zachariah 4th, Malachi 4th 5, 6 verses, Revel. 11th and 12 chapters, also Acts, 3d chapter from 19th to the end and before if thou dost well thou wilt be *excepted*." To the above letter, this innocent, sensible, and very promising young woman (unless spoiled by those deceivers) answered as follows: "I hope the Lord's two witnesses' prayers will not be wanting at the throne of grace, to assist me to find the way to happiness: and I earnestly desire to be with the Lord's two witnesses; and have not a wish further than to spend my life with them."

Again, I have also seen an original letter written by David Waggoner to two of his acquaintances in this city, in

consequence of some conversation which they had together about the person called the friend, in which letter he expresses himself as follows; "be assured that none but babes will come to know the great mystery of God that is made known to us, be assured also, that it is that strange work spoken of by the prophets of old, that none should believe though a man should declare it unto them, and also the saying, a woman shall compass a man, and the king's daughter that's all glorious, who was commanded to leave her father's house, and all her kindred, and instead of her fathers, they should be called her children, whom she should have power to make priests and kings in all the earth; those strange things, with many more, are come, and coming to pass." In the same letter, he saith further, "Oh my soul is sorrowful indeed that it is so with you, but also cease from accusations against the anointed of the Lord, and call no more the holy one of Israel a deluded person or a liar." And again, "This I know, that if you knew the Universal Friend, or me either, you would feel more condemned, than ever you have been when you first saw your lost state. Oh, take warning in time, stop and see, if the Lord God is not with us, and Jesus the true Messiah is all amongst us?"

us?" Now, that we may fully understand Waggoner, where he says to those men, "If ye knew the Universal Friend, *or me either*, you would feel more condemned than you have been when you first saw your lost state," we are to observe, that Jemimah, as he has told us, has power to make kings and priests in all the earth; that as she has made Parker, Richards, and others of them very great, some witnesses, some prophets, some apostles, &c. so it is said that she has made David Waggoner great also. Some think he is king David of old: and if so, well might he then say to common folks, "if you knew the Universal Friend, *or me either*," whom you treat with so much freedom, "you would be more condemned, than ever you were when you first saw your lost state:" for then you had only to bewail the common infirmities of mankind: but now you are calling the holy one of Israel a proud and deluded person and a liar, and treating me with contempt, the anointed of the Lord, even king David.

I am further informed, and from good authority, that this Waggoner, at a particular time, threw himself at the feet of Jemimah, in the utmost prostration, and confessed his sins to her; some time after, a person who was present at this confession, observed to him,

that his behaviour on that occasion was very foolish; he replied to this purpose, "Ah! Mary!----Mary, when thee comes to see thyself, and comes to know the Friend, thee will then humble thyself too:" now as Jemimah always makes it a point to reward her disciples in proportion to their veneration for her, very probably it was after this humiliation of himself before her, that she anointed him king in Israel.

Now I do not believe this gentleman, the author of the apology for them, notwithstanding all his zeal in their cause, is yet so much in Jemimah's favour as that she will make him very great; for however far he has gone in commendation of her, he has yet stopped short, she being, in his estimation, only a woman; but his friend, the zealous promoter of his performance, and warm friend of those people, for his extraordinary exertions in their cause, may possibly, if he holds on, receive at length a worthy recompence for all his services--Who knows but she may make him a king as well as Waggoner? Even if this should be the case, we are not to expect any visible alteration in the man: for he may be really changed into his name-sake, a certain king in Israel, who used sometimes to drive furiously, whilst, at the same time, to common eyes he will appear a plain and simple mechanic.

L

This

This gentleman, the advocate for those people, accuses me of cruelly deriding them : as to cruelty towards them, I am as clear of it as himself : and if there be any derision in my first piece, I am not sensible of it, having only told the truth ; but if their opinions and conduct are of that kind, that barely to mention them, is to deride or ridicule them, it is not my fault : however, let me observe to this gentleman, that the nature of every kind of evil determines the most proper method for an attack upon it. Things that are ridiculous, may very properly be ridiculed : and, on this principle, the prophet Elijah ridiculed the priests of Baal : and I doubt not but they felt the force of what he said, as convincingly, as if he had entered into metaphysical reasoning with them on the nature of the Deity, and the attributes of divine power. Now, was Elijah to blame, or was it the fault of Baal's priests, that he seemed to descend from the dignity of a prophet ? If this gentleman knows how to excuse him, and if he will be candid, he may make some allowance for me.

Let me now ask this gentleman, the author, and his faithful friend, who has been so indefatigable in handing about his performance, whether it would not have been more prudent for themselves, and

civil towards the person whom they took to be the author of the piece which offended them, to have candidly enquired of him, what foundation he had for his publication, before they undertook at all adventures, to call him a zealous calumniator, a sneerer, a liar, a person possessing a slanderous tongue, &c. They could not know but that I had sufficient information for what I said : for if they were unacquainted with those facts, it does not therefore follow I had asserted things without foundation.-- Those gentlemen may rest assured that I stand on ground that cannot be removed : truth being the rock which supports me, against which no power can prevail : but at all events they say, " I should have taken Gamaliel's advice, Let them alone, for if this council or work be of men, it will come to nought." Gamaliel is certainly a respectable character, and whether he spoke by divine inspiration, as those gentlemen suppose he did, or whether he only gave his opinion, as a man of sound sense, as the apostle Paul sometimes did, I doubt not but his advice was always well suited to the occasion : but I am not sensible that he has advised me to let those people alone, for they are no apostles of the Lord : and to suppose that he has advised me, as they say, would be a reflection on his wisdom :

wisdom: and if they are to come to nought, as I sincerely hope they will, this end is connected with the means, which means is to expose their impiety: but how long would those gentlemen have them let alone? The mischiefs they have done already, are very great---enough in all conscience; having separated men from their wives, and wives from their husbands, and made confusion wherever they have been: and, it is to be feared, they have, in some instances, sent some into that country from whence "no traveller returns." And what better can be expected, where a number of people make it a point implicitly to observe the directions of a woman not in her senses, under the amazing and diabolical delusion, that all power is given to her both in heaven and earth?



*From the Journal de Paris,
May 7, 1786.*

*Strictures on a Poem addressed
to the Officers and Soldiers
of the American Armies.
By David Humphreys, Colonel
in the Service of the
United States, and Aid-de-
Camp to his Excellency
General Washington.*

A GREAT many remarkable circumstances render this little performance worthy of the public attention. It was composed in America, in

1782, at the encampment of general Washington, when the British still occupying New-York and Charleston, the great cause of American liberty was not then decided. The author is an American officer writing in the midst of the tumult of a camp, and conciliating the occupations and duties of his profession with that silence and meditation which every poetical composition demands. The translator is a French general officer (M. le M. de Chastelleux) in whom the talents of a great military and literary character are acknowledged to be blended in a very extraordinary degree.

The object of the work is to animate the citizens of America to the defence of their country. The march of the poet is easy and unaffected; his ideas are noble and just, his sentiments amiable; and his translator, animated with the same spirit and endowed with the same talents, has not only transfused into our language the beauties of the original, but even added new ones to them.

The translator himself announces in his letter to col. Humphreys, that he has not piqued himself upon being literal, and that he has taken some liberties in his translation. But he is right in saying that this liberty does not go so far as independence: for that which he adds, is so connected with the text itself, that it may be

be considered as a development of his author's idea; and what he retrenches (being commonly foreign to our idiom and phraseology) would not have been preserved by the American author himself, if, more familiarised with our language, he had been pleased to translate his work into French. This liberty may be criticised: but we will say, in justification of the translator, that the author is very far from complaining of it.

This little poem is scarcely susceptible of extracts. We will only cite the apostrophe to gen. Washington, when he comes to take command of the American army.

"O first of heroes, fav'rite of the skies,
 "To what dread toils thy country bade
 "thee rise!
 "O rais'd by heav'n to save th' invaded
 "state!
 "(So spake the sage long since thy future
 "fate)
 "'Twas thine to change the sweetest scenes
 "of life
 "For public cares—to guide the embat-
 "tled strife—
 "Unnumber'd ills of ev'ry kind to dare—
 "The winter's blast, the summer's sultry
 "air
 "The lurking dagger—and the turbid
 "stornas
 "Of waisting war, with death in all his
 "forms—
 "Nor aught could daunt. Unspeakably
 "serene,
 "Thy conscious soul smil'd o'er the dread-
 "ful scene."

The recital of the death of Brown who perished in an ambuscade of savages, of Scammel who was assassinated by a pistol-shot in the reins at the moment after he had surrendered himself to a detachment of

English, and that of col. Laurens, son to the famous Laurens, president of congress, will ever be read with sympathetic sorrow. The descriptions of the author are full of animation, his regrets of sensibility; and the translator has not rested below his model.

The reader will, moreover, remark with pleasure, the contrast with the author has had the art to introduce, in a skilful manner, between the two very distinct parts of his poem. In the first, he paints the dangers which America experienced, and the calamities of war which desolated her for so long a period. In the last, he collects only delightful ideas and pictures of happiness; he unfolds to America the auspicious effects of that liberty she had obtained, and the felicity she is about to enjoy. He invites his fellow citizens for whom the task of glory is henceforth accomplished, to transport themselves upon the borders of the lakes, and upon the fertile banks of the *Belle Riviere*, a river most worthy of its name. He represents to them all the beauties which nature hath lavished upon those happy regions as a recompence to make them forget, on the bosom of rural felicity, the toils they have endured for their country.

In fine he predicts the future prosperity of this nascent empire, which rises upon a plan dic-

dictated by wisdom, and which will for ever remain the asy- lum of happiness and liberty."

The following is a Translati- on of the Introductory Let- ter, prefixed by the Mar- quis de Chastelleux, to the French Edition of this Poem.

"I was with you, my dear colonel, when, after a glorious campaign, you composed in silence those elegant verses, wherein you have displayed the whole extent of your ge- nius, in only wishing to ex- press your patriotic senti- ments. You made a mystery of the matter to me---and your modesty has exposed you to commit an unpardonable fault against the alliance that you have so nobly celebrated; since the European nation, which has had the first fruits of your poem, is precisely the English; but it is proper to acknowledge, on the present, as well as on many other oc- casions, this nation has proved that its enmity does not ex- tend to merit and talents. All the public papers, which are printed in London, have made your praises resound, and those very papers have first dis- closed your secret. It is true, I have seen some of them, the authors of which appeared to be vexed, that a composition, in which the English are not treated with ceremony, should obtain the honours of public

readings and public applau- ses*; and who wished to de- spoil you of your most illust- rious title, that of being an American, by making you to be born in I know not what district of England. However that may be, it is certain that France had reason to com- plain. Of no avail will it be for you to say, that your work is written in English: do you not know how much that lan- guage is in vogue among us, and how much we are disposed to translate it? I will not dis- guise any thing. It has hap- pened that your friend, your companion in arms, came to seize possession, at your apart- ments, of a beautiful copy of your poem, printed at Lon- don with all the accuracy and magnificence, which they al- ways bestow on every impor- tant work. It has, moreover, fallen to his lot to avail him- self of your absence † for mak- ing it known to his country- men. *For making it known!*

* The Morning Herald and other English papers made mention of the lecture of the poem in question, made in public, apparently in clubs or other places, where people en- ter by ticket.

† This letter was addressed to colonel Humphreys, while he was in England, to which country he made several jour- neys after his arrival in France.

that

that is saying too much : but at least to give some idea to those who are not sufficiently acquainted with the English language, to read it with facility. I have caused the text to be printed with the translation. This is a very generous proceeding, with which, I contend, you ought to be mightily satisfied. Every reader who may be in a condition to compare one with the other, will often cry out : “ *he has not known how to render all the energy, all the beauty of the original :*”---and that is exactly what I desire. There is never a pretty woman who does not pardon her painter for not making her so handsome as she really is, whenever she is placed by the side of her portrait ; then not a comparison but what proves to her advantage : and comparison is of all praises the most flattering, because it is the most perceptible, the most precise. My object will, therefore, be entirely completed, since all the criticisms which I shall merit, will turn to your glory. Being a translator in prose, and a translator who does not pique himself upon being literal, I should have much to fear from my author, if that author was not colonel Humphreys, whom I wish in every point to make my model. He loves liberty too much, to be offended at what I have taken on this occasion : this liberty shall not

go quite to independence: this is all I promise in assuring him that I will always be more faithful to that friendship he has accorded me, than to the text of which I took possession."

Le Marquis de Chastelleux.

Extract of a letter from Dr. Price, dated London, January 26, 1787, to a correspondent in Philadelphia.

THE news-papers which you sent me, were very acceptable to me: the essays and information they contain have contributed towards gratifying a curiosity which I am always feeling with respect to the affairs of the united states. Your federal government is a point of difficulty and importance, which I find still remains unsettled. I dread the thoughts of such a division of the states into three confederacies, as you say have been talked of. It is a pity that some general controuling power cannot be established, of sufficient vigour to decide disputes, to regulate commerce, to prevent wars, and to constitute an union that shall have weight and credit. At present, the power of congress in Europe is an object of derision rather than respect ;---at the same time the tumults in New-England, the weakness of congress, the difficulties and sufferings of many of the states

states, and the knavery of the Rhode-Island legislature, form subjects of triumph in this country. The conclusion is, that you are falling to pieces, and will soon repent your independence. But the hope of the friends of virtue and liberty is (to borrow an expression from your letter) that whereas, the kingdoms of Europe have travelled to tranquility thro' seas of blood, the united states are travelling to a degree of tranquility and liberty, that will make them an example to the world, *only* through seas of blunders. God grant this may prove the truth.



On Slavery.

Mr. Printer,

I Have lately heard that two of the most respectable merchants in our city, have refused to underwrite a vessel belonging to a foreign state, that was engaged in the African trade. I have likewise heard that the present sheriff of our city and county, and the present officers of the city vendue, have refused to sell negro slaves at public sale. These things mark the progress of justice and christian principles among us. But I am still distressed to see our printers continue to advertise negro slaves for sale in their newspapers. I think it holds out to the world that we are an inconsistent people. *To be sold as a slave*

for life is one of the greatest punishments that can be inflicted upon a human creature. In reading such an advertisement (if habits of cruelty had not blinded our eyes or hardened our hearts) we should naturally ask—What has this man done to subject himself to *be sold* for life? Has he murdered his father or mother? Or has he been the author of a conspiracy against the state? No, no—the advertisement says—he is sold—for *no fault*!!!! It might shock our feelings more, but it would not be more wicked or absurd to advertise—"To be *hanged*, a likely young negro boy, eighteen years old. He is registered according to law, and is *hanged* for no fault, but want of employ. Enquire of the printer."

HUMANUS.



On the Practice of Gouging.

THERE cannot be traced in all ancient history so detestable and infernal a custom as has been known of late in America, in the fighting way, between human rational beings! The brute creation are far more honourable by nature in their resentments to each other. The victor is satisfied with the victory he obtains, and leaves his prostrate yielder to recover his wonted vigour; but the fell malice of an inexorable imp-like mortal pursues with

with unremitting vengeance, to maim and destroy the conquered victim, by that infernal method of gouging out the eyes which his Maker bestowed on him as the greatest of earthly blessings.

Lately a friend to humanity was an eye-witness of a horrid scene between two men engaged at the fists, having previously promised to act fairly and honourably by each other, agreeably to the true Broughtonian rules. One of them religiously kept his promise; often threw his antagonist, and honourably permitted him to rise and renew the contest: and this lenity he expected from the other; but, O wretched to recount the scene that followed! the first fall he gave his generous combatant, the monster threw his ponderous carcase on the unhappy victim, and in an instant thrust his fingers into both eyes, plucked them out, threw them on the ground, and left him, exulting in the barbarous act, well knowing there were no human laws to be accountable to, for this horrid act, worse than murder! The poor unhappy sufferer by his daily labour supported an affectionate wife and six tender children, now left forlorn, helpless, and the poor blind parent remains an object distressing to behold.

Ought not our legislatures immediately to set about re-

straining this wicked practice, by making death, or gouging, the penalty, without benefit of clergy? What lengths will not depraved men go to, when unrestrained by penal laws? The destructive consequences, if it be permitted to continue with impunity, will bring a curse on the land.

—•••••
Anecdote.

COLONEL Vanhorn, an American gentleman, had the extraordinary fortune to give, on the same day, a breakfast to lord Cornwallis, and a dinner to general Lincoln. Lord Cornwallis, informed that the latter had slept at mr. Vanhorn's, came to take him by surprise: but Lincoln, getting intelligence of his design, retired into the woods. Lord Cornwallis, astonished not to find him, asked if the American general was not in the house? "No," replied mr. Vanhorn, bluntly. "On your honour?" says Cornwallis. "On my honour: and, if you doubt it, here are the keys, you may search yourself." "I shall take your word for it," said lord Cornwallis, and asked for some breakfast: an hour afterwards, he returned to the army. Lincoln, who was concealed at no great distance, immediately returned, and dined quietly with his host.

POEMS

POEMS by the late Dr. LADD.

Receipt for a Cough.

MUCH coughing, dear Phebe, with
ease you might spare,
Much hoarseness and trouble, much head-
ach and care,
If a wet parlour floor you would seldom ad-
mit,
Or a window shov'd up in the room where
you sit;
If abroad 'twere your rule but few mo-
ments to spend,
When the damp shades of evening unheal-
thy descend;
But when sable night with its vapours mo-
lests,
Be sparing of supper, be early to rest:
Then lie in the morning as long as you
please,
While something diverts you—for nothing
should tease;
With the steam of your hyson, if health
you pursue,
Accept, without butter, a biscuit or two;
When you rise, it will further the cure of
your cough,
Tho' your dress should be light, let there
still be enough:
Serene be your passions, your temper be
calm,
Keep easy, contented, keep cheerful and
warm.
These are my directions—be this your be-
lief,
I'm an ign'rant old quack, if they give
not relief.

J O S H U A.

ON that great day when heav'n ap-
pear'd in light,
And Israel conquer'd the proud Amorite;
Amid the tribes intrepid Joshua stood,
Array'd in all the terrors of his God.
Whene'r he mov'd, the Heathen were dis-
may'd;
But, when he spoke, the host of heaven o-
bey'd:

"Sun, be thou silent o'er Gibeon's hill,*
"And thou, O Moon! in Ajalon be still."
Then paus'd th' astonish'd sun—the moon
beheld
Each scene of death, and hover'd o'er the
Then her dun orb, by pow'r supreme con-
troul'd,
Pale thro' the heav'n's in silent grandeur
roll'd—
Say, shall not this to latest time descend,
In the fair volume by the righteous penn'd?
For one whole day, by heav'n's eternal
will,
The sun stood silent, and the moon was
still.

* Joshua has been wrongfully accused of commanding the sun to stand still, and so of contradicting the Copernican System. This error has originated from our common version of the bible, and we have by this means overlooked a most remarkable beauty in the original—Joshua does not, as vulgarly supposed, command the sun to stand still, that he may have day-light sufficient to conquer his enemies. This conquest appears to have been already effected. The sun and the moon are sublimely introduced as spectators:—they are silent in the midst of heaven, and gaze with astonishment at the acts of Israel, of Joshua, and the terrible slaughter of the Amorites, by hailstones. Here was room for the boldest figures, and the sublimest astonishment; the sun and moon are introduced, they are called upon to be silent (i. e. astonished) and we are informed they are so. This is perhaps among the finest instances of the *prolepseis*; nothing can be more sublimely imagined. The following is nearly a literal translation from the Hebrew:

And Joshua spake to Aicim, the day when Aicim delivered up the Amorites to Israel, and Joshua said before Israel, Sun, be thou silent upon Gibeon, and thou, O Moon, in the vale of Ajalon. And the sun was silent, and the moon stayed, after the people were avenged of their enemies. Shall not this be written in the book of the (Jasher) righteous, that the sun was silent in the midst of heaven, and halted not during a whole day? *Joshua, x. 12, 13.*

M

DEATH

With heart-felt warmth, which might a
grace become,

She bids the good man hearty welcome
home;

Then spreads before him what her stores
afford;

Cold beef and brown bread crown the heal-
thy board:

While round their father, from their fight
so long, [throng,

With eager haste the little prattlers
With antic gestures, and with wanton glee,

Hang on his coat, and fondle on his knee;
With many a little tale, they draw the

smile,
And court his looks with many a playful

wile.

Behold him now, with calm unanxious
breast,

Sink in soft slumbers on the bed of rest;
Her silent shade, the night around him

throws,
And lulls his mind to undisturb'd repose,

Till far away, the dark'ning shadows fly,
And the bright morning reddens in the

sky;
He hails, with cheery song, the beauteous

ray,
Glad to resume the labours of the day;

Fresh from his couch, to wonted toil he
springs,

Friend to no tyrants, envious of no kings.
Such men, O Britain! once upon the

field,
Bore down whole ranks, and made the

mighty yield.
Have you forgot when tow'ring on the

plain
They came, thro' blood, o'er mountain-

heaps of slain?
Ah, no! your widows' tears, your orphans'

groans,
Shall tell the story to your future sons:

Your future sons, their fathers yet unborn,
Shall rue the rising of the fatal morn,

When first provok'd to deeds of endless
fame,

Warm from the plough, each hardy warri-
or came,

Snatch'd his known musket, join'd his
corps, and soon [now.

Reap'd the thick harvest of deserv'd re-
ward.

Behold our chieftains, bending from the
field,

To spots paternal, which their hands had
till'd:

There the great warriors, who---(tho'
strange it seem)

Directed armies---now direct their team:
Once march'd to glory o'er the field, and

now
With equal grandeur march---behind the

plough.

So once in Rome, great Cincinnatus rose,
And pour'd the storm of vengeance on her

foes;
Tow'rd on the plain (while terror flew

before)
And bade the thunder of the battle roar;

Then tir'd with conquest, but with laurel
crown'd,

Sought his lov'd fields, and till'd his stub-
born ground.

Now brighter suns illumine our smiling
plains,

Where peace resides, where independence
reigns.

Hail, peace! thou witness of our happiest
days:

Hail, heav'nly-born! to thee we tune the
No more grim war the frightened land a-

larms
With scenes of slaughter, or the clash of

arms;
Whilst thou and freedom, with returning

flight,
Burst in full radiance on our raptur'd sight.

No lovely youth now bleeds upon the
plain,

The rev'rend sire lamenting o'er the slain;
For him no more maternal sorrows flow,

Nor more the virgin sighs her bosom woe:
For God commands the rage of war to

cease,
And sends us blessings in the form of peace.

Unshook by arms, unhurt by warring
bands,

Firm as the heav'n's, our independence
stands;

From stubborn contest springs Columbia's
fame, [name.

And the earth labours with the mighty
To those from whom (next heav'n) such

blessings flow,
Their loud applause whole millions shall

bestow:
Their unborn sons, at many a distant date,

Shall hail the men who dar'd defend the
state;

In glowing lustre, shall their glories last,
Each age still adding to the ages past:

Beyond that day when nature sinks in
flames,

The skies shall glitter with their glorious
names.

Long shall thy land with grateful ardour
own

Thy worth, O Hancock! * freedom's ge-
nuine son:

First in the council, eloquent and wise,
To save thy country, we beheld thee rise:

With what smooth flow, thy copious ac-
cents wind

* Hancock and Adams, the two proscrib-
ed American Patriots.

Thro' the warm'd heart, and bear away
the mind!

How rose the patriots, resolute and bold;
How shook the senate, when thy periods
roll'd:

Thick on the field they stood, in dire dis-
play,

Whilst thou, great chieftain, led the glo-
rious way.

With thee, an early candidate for fame,
Thy firm colleague asserts the rightful
claim;

Dear to remembrance, when all time is
past,

The name of Adams shall for ever last.

When first with rapid course, like spread-
ing flame,

O'er all our coasts the sons of Britain came,
His country saw their much-lov'd Ward †
arise,

Bold was his manner and his soul was wise.
Thee too, great Hopkins, heav'n-born
freedom fir'd,

And all the genius of thy land inspir'd.
Then with heart-feeling warmth, with
pow'r divine,

To rouse the soul, O Elery! was thine;
When strong and clear thy elocution flows,
The ear is raptur'd, and the bosom glows.

From men like these, with glorious ardour
warm'd,

Sprung the first senates which Columbia
form'd,

When freedom's children fann'd the rising
flame,

And distant lands resounded to their fame.
While justice rules, while love of free-
dom charms,

While greatness dazzles, and while glory
warms,

How can each bard, unfinish'd, quit the
lore,

That shines with names for ages to adore?
Amid such themes, the patriot soul dis-
dains

The trivial lay, or dull ignoble strains.
Rutledge! * to thee such honours all be-
long,

Historic honours, and the poet's song:
Th' immortal page to latest times shall
tell,

How great, how glorious, and below'd
how well.

Full oft the senate of Columbia's choice
Has claim'd thy wisdom, and thy patriot
voice;

† Ward, Hopkins and Elery, the three
first delegates from the state of Rhode-Is-
land.

* J. Rutledge, esq. of South Carolina.

And oft thy wisdom in th' event was seen,
To guide the movements of the great ma-
chine.

When o'er thy land invasive Britain
spread,

With deeds of blood, and desolation
dread,

While all the firmness of thy soul was
try'd,

Thy country's genius triumph'd at thy side.
She saw thee, chief, in all thy greatness
shine,

And doom'd the honours of the patriot
thine:

Entwin'd the wreath of glory for thy brow,
And bade to thee, succeeding laurels grow;
That while the bards shall of thy country
tell,

Who greatly conquer'd, and who bravely
fell,

They'll sing, distinguish'd, from the train
 approv'd,

Rutledge, the great, the honour'd, and
below'd.

Long live the man in early contest found,
Who spoke his heart, when dastards trem-
bled round;

Who, fir'd with more than Greek or Ro-
man rage,

Flash'd truth on tyrants from his manly
page:

Immortal Payne, whose pen, surpris'd, we
saw,

Could fashion empires, while it kindled
war—

When first with awful pow'r to crush the
foes,

All bright, in glitt'ring arms, Columbia
rose,

From thee our sons the glorious mandate
took,

As if from heav'n some oracle had spoke;
And when thy pen reveal'd the grand de-
sign,

'Twas done: Columbia's liberty was
thine.

Great Washington! thy sounding fame
inspires

The heav'n-rapt bard, with more than
human fires:

Come, like thyself, with all the dazzling
rays

Of glory crown'd, thou fairest child of
praise:

O, come! as when victorious on the plain,
The vanquish'd legions trembled in thy
train;

When thro' the earth thy bright'ning
splendor shone,

And glad Columbia hail'd her conquer'ing
son.

Britannia first, in swarmy numbers
 proud,
 Frown'd on the hill-tops like a blacken'd
 cloud:
 Then we beheld thee, glorious chief—thy
 arm
 Swept the thick ranks, and shook the bat-
 tle storm:
 While thy firm squadrons, thro' the curl-
 ing gloom,
 In steady thunders pour'd Britannia's
 doom.
 As when o'er guilty heads Jehovah forms
 Black sheets of vengeance, and impending
 storms,
 The pow'r of heav'n his whole creation
 shrouds,
 In sable horror, and a night of clouds;
 Lo! swift as thought, the angry flames
 fly,
 Red flames and darkness mingling in the
 sky:
 Terrific contrast! while with deepen'd
 found
 The thunder speaks! loud, awful, and
 profound:
 Heav'n's chosen fav'rites tremble at the
 sign,
 And guilty wretches fly the wrath divine.
 Thus where thy arm the storm of battle
 spread,
 Trembling and pale, the adverse legions
 fled;
 Nor all escap'd—for numb'ring with the
 slain,
 What mighty warriors prest the sanguine
 plain!
 Unhappy youths! destin'd to view no
 more
 The whit'ning prospect of fair Albion's
 shore;
 No more from fighting fields the warriors
 come,
 For fate denies to view their natal home.
 As broad black billows, boiling from
 the deep,
 Burst in destruction on the shatter'd ship,
 When roaring north the foamy surge de-
 forms,
 And rolls dread ruin from an hundred
 storms:
 Such, and so dreadful, o'er th' astonish'd
 foes,
 Burst the red vengeance, when thy wrath
 arose.
 To thee, great chieftain, now far love-
 lier pours
 The soft smooth sound, where no rough
 torrent roars.
 From scenes of slaughter where the echo-
 ing heath
 Is shook with battle and is fill'd with
 death;

From shouting bands, tumultuous in ap-
 plause,
 From wond'ring states ambitious of thy
 laws—
 Thou turn'dst. What chief could, O Co-
 lumbia! shine, [thine?
 With half the heav'n-born dignity of
 Once more to thy fair seats we view thee
 come,
 While each pleas'd neighbour gratulates
 thee home;
 On grass-green Vernon, lovelier beams the
 morn, [turn;
 And glad Potowmack murmurs thy re-
 illustrious chief!—amidst thy sweet re-
 treat,
 May'st thou live happy, as thou'rt good
 and great!
 While yet thou view'st with transport in
 thy eyes,
 Thy darling land with full-orb'd glory rise;
 While no dark tyrant o'er Columbia
 frowns, [crowns.
 But glorious Freedom ev'ry blessing
 While raptur'd states in gratitude bestow
 Their thanks for blessings which to thee
 they owe.
 No more thy bands their Washington
 implore;
 Thy rescu'd country calls to arms no more.
 But smiling heav'n has lull'd thy cares to
 rest, [bled breast:
 And calm'd with lenient hand thy trou-
 In sweet retirement bids thy labours cease,
 And gilds the evening of thy days with
 peace:
 In halcyon flow, and smooth as summer's
 seas,
 Thy hours shall pass in philosophic ease,
 Till time shall gently beck thee from the
 stage,
 In the mild mellow of a ripe old age:
 And many an eye shall start the gushing
 tear, [dear,
 While thy lov'd country holds thy mem'ry
 Nor shalt thou mourn, in Alexandrian
 lays *
 Thou hadst no Homer to record thy praise:
 For many a bard, of ages yet unborn,
 Shall with thy name his tuneful lays adorn;
 In lasting archives shall thy glories rest,
 Engrav'd for ever on each grateful breast:
 In ev'ry heart thy monument be known,
 With this inscription—"Here is Wash-
 ington."
 To thee, O Greene! each muse her tri-
 bute pays,
 Great chieftain! crown'd with never-
 fading bays:

* It was a well known lamentation of
 Alexander the great, that he was destitute
 of a Homer to celebrate his actions.

Thy

Thy worth thy country, ever grateful,
owns,
Her first of warriors, and her best of sons.
Hail, Putnam! * hail, thou venerable
name!
Tho' dark oblivion threatens thy mighty
fame,
It threatens in vain—for long shalt thou be
known,
Who first in virtue, and in battle shone,
When fourscore years had blanch'd thy
laurel'd head,
Strong in thine age, the flame of wrath
was spread.
Behold what names fame's swelling list
adorn,
Great glorious names for age eternal born.
There Gates, there Wayne, there Lincoln
stand enroll'd,
And Fleury glitters there in letter'd gold.
To these Columbia at the latest day,
The debt of heart-felt gratitude shall pay:
They once in hours of gloomy danger rose,
Tow'r'd on her fields, and crush'd her stub-
born foes.
Now to their country ends their great de-
sign
In heav'n-born peace, and liberty divine.
What forms † are these, which sit along
the glades
With silent sweep? what visionary shades?
Ah! see them move—the brave, the bleed-
ing train
Of glorious men, in fields of battle slain.
There was thy wound, Columbia—still to
thee,
In mem'ry dear, thy martyr'd sons shall
be:
Their names, their fates, remotest ages
hear,
While virtue sheds the sympathizing tear.
See yonder ghost, whose pallid face out-
vies
The white moon, glimm'ring in the east-
ern skies:
His shadowy arms! his mantle like the
snows!
His wounded breast, whence seeming
crimson flows:
He was the first, who gain'd the martyr's
fame:
Say, who has heard not mighty Warren's
name?

* The brave Putnam seems to have been almost obscured amidst the glare of succeeding worthies; but his early and gallant services entitle him to an everlasting remembrance.

† The poet beholds passing before him, the ghosts of those brave men who fell in the American contest.

There sits great Mercer's shade, and
here is known
The much-lov'd Yeates—fair freedom's
genuine son.
But who emerges from yon gloomy
cloud,
With bleeding bosom crims'ning o'er
his throat?
'Tis he! in all the pomp of death displav'd,
Montgom'ry comes! Behold the mighty
shade,
Greater than life: while (never to divide)
Lo, Wolfe, immortal Wolfe, attends his
side.
M'Pherson too! and (who can tears re-
frain?)
See! gentle Cheefeman glides along the
plain.
Hail, warrior shades! whose awful
tombs are found
On Abram's plain, that consecrated
ground.
Hail, ye great chieftains! who, amidst
the roar
Of thund'ring cannon, lav'd the field in
gore:
Still shall your mem'ry wake the tender
tear,
Dear to your country, to whole nations
dear:
Columbia's baid, smit with the heav'n-
born flame,
To latest times perpetuates your name;
While heav'n's first angel bids your glories
rise,
And prints them deathless in your native
skies.
But ye, great worthies, genuine sons of
praise,
Whose patriot virtues claim immortal
lays,
Blame not the poet, if his much-lov'd
song
Nor bears the glory of your deeds along;
For should he strive to sound each mighty
name,
With which his country swells the list of
fame,
'Midst the vast labour of the arduous tale,
His time, his numbers, and his verse
would fail.
Columbia, hail!! fair rising to the eye,
'Midst the warm sunshine of the western
sky;
Thy fertile coasts with rich luxuriance
crown'd,
Where the blue ocean rolls his waves a-
round;
Thy vales, which summer spreads his fra-
grance o'er,
While the soft zephyrs waft it from the
shore;

Thy

Thy verdant hills, afar by strangers seen—
Thy spreading glades, thy fields for ever
green— [coast,
Thy rising cities, length'ning round the
And those deep forests, where the eye is
lost, [sight,
With beauteous grandeur mingling in the
All these conspire to give the soul delight.

To thy warm plains, the northern sub-
ject flies
From the cold pinching of inclement skies ;
While India's children, from her sun-burnt
glades,

Seek cool retirement in thy happier shades.
The man of wealth, whose gather'd stores
exceed [need,
The happy sums ten thousand wretches
surveys the prospect, beauteous all and
fair, [air ;

And leaves his own for blest Columbia's
While the poor wretch, by pallid hunger
nurt,

Worn down by labour, and by taxes curst,
From lands where famine or a tyrant
reigns,

Comes, and is happy on thy lovelier plains.
See thy blest sons in ev'ry shape renown'd,
Some tend the flocks, while others till the
ground ;

Some shear the sheep, and fleece on fleece
they spread, [ning thread ;
From whence the matron spins the length-
While the lone lab'rer thro' the forest hies,
And fells those woods which soon in flocks
must rise.

Nor in rude arts thy sons excel alone,
Are they not great in paths of science
known ?

Do they not tread that spot the muses love,
Thro' flow'ry mazes of the laurel grove ?

Yes, fair Columbia, rushing into day,
See where thy Franklin points the glorious
way ;

Like Newton skill'd, dark error to con-
troul, [tur'd soul.

And pour bright knowledge on th' enrap-
See where the sage all venerable stands,
Th' electric tube red glimm'ring in his
hands. [spreads

Go, mighty genius, where thy judgment
The road to glory—where fair science leads.
From yon black clouds, that low with
tempests bend,

Compel the angry thunder to descend ;
And as the light'ning flashes swift on high,
O ! seize it glimm'ring from the darken'd
sky :

Then, like thyself, with flame envelop'd
o'er, [less roar,
While round thy brow the thunders harm-
Rise greater still—from tyrants snatch
the rod,

And be the second only to thy God,

Thou hast : for lo, whence swelling
oceans foam, [come.

Fair to the view, commutual treaties
Thy wisdom join'd the widely-diff'ring
pow'rs, [ours.

And made sweet peace and independence
Thro' the calm breast what lov'd ideas
roll,

What flowing periods elevate the soul,
When the great Farmer, gen'rous, clear,
and strong,

Bears the rais'd mind by magic pow'r
along.

Well known that pen, in smooth persua-
sion skill'd, [wield.

Which none but freedom's Dickinson can
Behold great Winthrop, studious to
explore

The mystic page of philosophic lore ;
Nor studious less to view that tome re-
fin'd, [mind.

Which heav'n, indulgent, opens to the
There Williamfon pursues the mazy road,
And points thro' nature's works to na-
ture's God.

There too, great Oliver his page refines,
And vindicates th' omnipotent designs ;
Shews the red comet, which thro' ether
flames,

The sov'reign wisdom of its God proclaims.
Here our lov'd poets tune th' immortal
lays, [praise.

While praise inspires, for much they merit
Hark ! Freneau's voice attunes the solemn
air,

He sings to Freedom, and he sings of war ;
With noble warmth, shews man created
free, [to be."

" When God, from chaos, gave this world
What plaintive song, what melancholy
tale, [vale ?

Rides on the breeze, and spreads upon the
'Tis Barlow's strain, which solemn pours
along, [song.

For Hofmer's dead, and sadden'd is the
Here the fair volume shews the far spread
name [fame.

Of wondrous Wheatley, Afric's heir to
Well is it known what glowing genius
shines, [lines :

What force of numbers, in her polish'd
With magic pow'r the grand descriptions
roll

Thick on the mind, and agitate the soul.
Such warmth of fancy, once a Mayhem fir'd,
Untaught he sung, by all the muse inspir'd.

Near each fam'd city o'er the wide do-
main,

Where beauteous nature spreads the level
plain,

Where healthy breezes spin the lengthen'd
age,
The youthful student turns the classic page ;
From

From noise retir'd, salubrious airs invite
The soul to knowledge—teeming with de-
light. [prise]

On such fair spots, the trav'ler with sur-
sees many a college in bright prospect rise:
There the learn'd youth the willing tribute
pays, [days;]

To his lov'd ancients—"Bards of other
There, taught the force of rolling Greek to
join,

With the smooth polish'd Ciceronian line,
He stands for fame, to add a rival soon
To Sciles, to Varnum, or to Witherpoon.

Rich in the knowledge of five thousand
years,

Lo! lovely fair philosophy appears, [eyes,
With smiles of joy, with pleasure in her
Beholds her young Academy arise;
Complacent views societies that join
In wisdom's sacred cause, and science all
divine.

Here kindly nature ev'ry blessing spreads
O'er the brown forest, and the flow'ry
meads. [sky,

See you tall pine which threatens to the
And must, ere long, thro' sea-green farges
fly,

Chang'd to a mast, (for so the fates decree)
On some proud ship it rides the billowy sea.
There tow'rs the oak, for many a purpose
good, [wood.

'Midst all his pride, the monarch of the
Here poplars rise, and ever weeping there
In constant verdure, the balsamic fir.

Tall maples here their treasur'd sweets dis-
close, [grows;

And there the poet's much-lov'd laurel
With many a tree unknown to other skies,
And many a forest whence their navies rise.

Hence swarming merchants o'er the bri-
ny floods, [woods;

In hollow ships shall bear the leastests
And hence to distant climes they too shall
bear [tar.

The well-spun cordage, and th' unequal'd
No more the loom of fair Hibernia
groans

With the rich linen for Columbia's sons;
For native here, it emulates the snows,
And here the silk with native purple glows.

As the wide sea, her refluent billows
pours, [shores;

Now flows, now ebbs upon the sounding
So fair Columbia's wayward merchants
roam

To ev'ry port, from ev'ry port they come,
And wealthy nations pour the golden tide,
As waves on waves o'er sea-green oceans
ride;

While nothing enters, but for use design'd,
Lo! ev'ry export leaves its wealth behind.

'Midst swarming nations heav'n-born jus-
tice reigns [plains;

O'er the throng'd cities, and the busy
While smiling freedom, whence loud
farges roar, [shore.

Invites fair commerce to her peaceful
The swarthy merchant of the Eastern
skies

Where from the deep the beams of morn-
ing rise—

The Western climes where setting Phabus
laves

His radiant glories in their sea-green
waves, [fords,

Receive, delighted, what our land af-
And hail Columbia at their festive boards.

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